

# Disability Now

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Richard Bowers (above) from Surrey received his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in June. Mr Bowers, 23, has been working towards the top award for ten years, doing everything from 25 mile country hikes to photography courses, making meals for elderly people and sailing to Holland.

## Benefits: the axe is poised

Disability groups are outraged at Government plans to cut the number of people on invalidity benefit (IVB) by introducing tougher medical tests, making it "less generous" and taxable.

The proposals were revealed in a draft letter to the Prime Minister from Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley last month. If carried out, up to 60,000 people would lose their entitlement to IVB.

Mr Lilley wrote: "I propose a three-pronged course of action, which would focus the benefit more closely on the long-term sick, make it less generous and make it taxable ... The changes ... would restrict access by the introduction of a new, medically-based test. New rules would make the benefit less generous and focus it more directly on the long-term sick."

About 1.5 million people claim IVB at a cost of £6.1 billion a year. The letter suggests £180 million could be saved by 1995/6, £495 million the following year and £1.3 billion by the end of the century. The proposals would apply to new

claimants and existing recipients who are reassessed.

Angela Hadjipateras of Disability Alliance said: "The future looks very grim for thousands of disabled people. It is terrible that cuts like these can be made to some of the most vulnerable people in society."

MENCAP slammed the plans as "shameful and indefensible". Marilyn Howard, social security policy officer of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "It's appalling that the Govern-

Continued on page 9

## Two year wait for a ramp

A campaigning disability group has helped Sheffield pensioner Betty Briggs win a two-year battle to get a ramp outside her home.

CHIPS - a Sheffield-based support group for wheelchair users - protested to Sheffield City Council after hearing that Mrs Briggs had been waiting since 1991 for the ramp. Mrs Briggs had been told by the council that there was no money available.

Mrs Briggs' husband, Albert, said: "The delay meant Betty rarely got out. She was only able to leave our home when family or neighbours were able to help me lift her down the steps. I used to try and get her down the steps myself but at 72 it became a bit risky. We are delighted the ramp's finally been fitted because it will make such a difference to our lives."

Kath Savage, CHIPS organ-

Continued on page 6



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## No room for Trixi

An angry dog owner is calling on the John Grooms Housing Association for disabled people to change its "no pets" policy.

Pam Brooks, who owns a Yorkshire terrier called Trixi-belle, has been told she can move into a sheltered flat in Edgware, North London, but the dog cannot join her.

"I feel bitter and very frustrated," said Ms Brooks, who has arthritis of the spine and repetitive strain injury. "I've had Trixi-belle for more than three years, during which time I have been in great pain, have not been able to work and have not got out much."

"She is very well behaved, needs little exercise and she's too small to hurt anyone. I've

found her a great companion and couldn't do without her."

Ms Brooks has been supported by her doctor, occupational therapist and vet. They have written letters to the Association explaining it would be detrimental to her health if

Continued on page 6



Pam Brooks and Trixi-belle

# Call for legal duty to investigate abuse

Social workers should be given a legal duty to investigate cases of suspected abuse against elderly and disabled people who are unable to take decisions for themselves, a new consultation paper by the Law Commission recommended last month.

The paper also proposed that social workers should be given the power to enter the home of

a "mentally incapacitated" person if they suspect that abuse has taken place.

If the Commission's measures were carried out, it would become an offence to refuse investigators access. Social workers would also be able to apply for an emergency protection order to remove the person to a place of safety.

The Law Society has come out strongly in favour of the paper and is urging the Government to implement the measures as soon as possible. David Keating, chairman of the Law Society's Mental Health and Disability Sub-Committee, said: "Reform of the law in this area is long overdue. Changes to the law relating to decision-

making and mentally incapacitated adults must be made urgently."

Age Concern also welcomed the proposals. The charity's legal adviser Ian Purvis said: "We are very pleased with the document paper and support the proposed measures. At the moment, agencies have limited powers to intervene if they sus-

pect abuse, unless a complaint is made, so it would make sense to increase the powers of social workers and enable them to act when abuse is suspected."

*Mentally Incapacitated and Other Vulnerable Adults: Public Laws Protection, Consultation Paper 130, £7.95, HMSO, 071-873 9090.*

## Guide for Disabled Visitors

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ADN1



Stephen Iliffe uses a new payphone for deaf and speech-impaired people at Kings Cross Station in London. The BT textphone will also be on trial at Heathrow, the BT shop in Glasgow and in centres for deaf people in Birmingham and Doncaster.

## Disability Now

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London W1N 4EQ.  
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Kingslea Press Ltd,

12 Dock Offices,

Surrey Quays Road,

London SE16 2XU.

Tel: 071-252 1362.

**Typesetting bureau**

Banbury Typesetters,

Suite 10, Borough House,

Marlborough Road,

Banbury, Oxon OX16 8TH.

Tel: (0295) 272722.

**Printed by** Cherwell

Valley Lithographic

Printers, Banbury, Oxon

and Challenge Print

Management.

Tel: (0933) 460041.

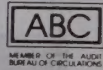
ISSN 0958-4676

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### Action on VAT

Leaders of the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF), the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation and the Keep Able Foundation met Customs and Excise regulators in June and found them receptive to the concern about imposing VAT on products used by disabled people (see DN May and June). They were assured there was no campaign against disabled people.

DLF director Charles Moore said: "They are looking at ways to apply VAT regulations more fairly and we have been asked to put forward proposals."

\* Residents at a Cheshire Home in Derbyshire are campaigning to get VAT taken off disabled people's phone bills. They are collecting signatures for a petition to go to local MP Edwina Currie.

Write to Mrs Freda Elliff, Newlands House Cheshire Home, Main St, Netherseal, Swadlincote, DE12 8DA.

### Powys pays up

Mrs Jenny Hambidge of Llandrindod Wells, Powys, has been offered an out of court settlement of £250 by Powys County Council. When, after no assessment, her home care hours were cut by a third last year, she consulted a solicitor and filed a formal complaint. The money is to compensate her for distress caused by the decision and the expense incurred before the care hours were reinstated.

### Black People First

Members of a new organisation for black people with learning difficulties drew up a charter of rights at their first conference in June.

Black People First, 115-117 King's Cross Rd, London WC1.

### Arola muddle

The Arola pavement/road vehicle (DN, June) does not meet UK regulations for a pavement vehicle. "It is too heavy, too wide and too fast", says Ann Frye, head of the Transport Department's Disability Unit.

"We were under the impression that the Dutch regulation and the UK regulation were the same," claims Cyril Burton of Burton International, the marketing consultants. "Certainly no one was attempting to mislead the newspaper or Mike Rogers."

The Arola has yet to receive type approval in the UK, but provided you have a driving license, you can bring it into the country as a personal import and use it on the road.



5,500 signed a national petition asking the Government to exempt disabled and elderly people from VAT on fuel. Handing it in to Downing Street on 10 June were Cornish Spastics Society members Sandy Collington, Gordon Saddy (centre) Francis Rowe (right) and their MP Matthew Taylor.

TY GODDARD

## New school for parents

Welsh parents of children with cerebral palsy and similar disabilities can learn how to help their children become more independent and mobile using methods based on Conductive Education.

A new school for parents, at the Spastics Society's Craig-y-Parc school, near Cardiff, will help 20 parents, with more places added as funding allows. The school is supported by SOS, the Stars Organisation Supporting Action for People with Cerebral Palsy.

\* David Hart's orthotic walker for children is to be manufactured through Genesis Orthotics of Birmingham. The plan for the Spastics Society to produce it fell through. It will cost £1,600 (including after care) and fitting will begin in July. The Spastics Society hopes to announce plans of its own by October.

David Hart, tel: (0535) 667306.

## Halliwick college closes

An Enfield college for disabled students is to close this month due to lack of funds.

Halliwick College, run by Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide (ICAN), offers 31 students a wide range of residential courses, including basic maths, communication studies, domestic science and independent living skills.

The plan to move to a new site at Enfield College of Further Education in September was foiled due to lack of funds.

ICAN director Brian Jones said: "We could not get assurances from the Further Educa-

tion Funding Council that it could provide us with the scale of funding we needed. We have, however, found places for all the students in other educational establishments."

College manager Julie Durham said: "We are very disappointed about the closure. It will mean the loss of a great deal of expertise."

Funding problems have also led to the charity withdrawing from the Keith Grove Project in Shepherd's Bush, west London, which provides support and life skills training for 12 disabled students.

## Positive action in Edinburgh

Seven posters with photographs by disabled people, which challenge people's views of disability, are on show in Princes Street, Edinburgh, until 4 July.

Built round the words "What is disability?" "Your frame of mind is our disability", the posters were planned with the

support of Artlink, a local arts organisation. Artlink hopes they will go on to other sites.

A larger exhibition, "The Creation of a New Self Image" is at the Collective Gallery, Cockburn Street, Edinburgh, until 3 July.

Artlink, tel: 031-229 3555.

## No ILF for the dying

Terminally ill people will not receive help from the new £4 million Independent Living Fund (ILF) because of funding restrictions, it was announced last month.

Pauline Thompson of the Disablement Income Group, who was also vice-chairman of the former ILF, described the decision as "obscene".

She said: "I am horrified by the lack of compassion and humanity revealed in this decision. The old ILF had a very positive approach to assisting people who didn't have long to live. Applicants were treated as a priority. Where on earth do the Trustees think help will be available from, as councils are barely able to cope with people's needs now?"

ILF director Margaret Baldwin said: "We have decided to target ILF because of the limited funds available. We will concentrate on people whose condition is stable and whose care needs are not likely to increase. Sadly, this means many people with terminal illnesses will not get help, but other statutory and charitable services are available in their case."

## Charges battle

Disabled people in London are being taken to court because they have refused to pay Hillingdon Council a £1 a day charge for travel to day centres.

The council has issued four summonses because the disabled people owe them almost £500 in unpaid charges.

Henry Donovan, chairman of the Disablement Association of Hillingdon said: "It is disgraceful that the council is acting in such a draconian fashion over charges that should not have been introduced."

A Hillingdon Council spokesperson said: "We have started legal proceedings as a last resort after several requests for the money."

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# 'No civil rights for two years'

Alison Rowat reports

The Government has no intention of bringing in any sort of anti-discrimination Bill in the next two years at least, the All-Party Disablement Group of MPs has been told.

The second meeting between the two took place on 14 June. It is understood that the Government said it was not looking to introduce a Bill "in the next [Parliamentary] session or two". That could mean 1996 at the earliest.

It has asked the group to help draw up a list of "action points" where reforms might be made in the meantime. These could include extending building regulations to ensure better access, or placing tougher sanctions on employers who don't meet their quota.

The APDG will now draw up a list with the help of disability groups and present it to the Government at the next meeting, which will probably take place in the autumn.

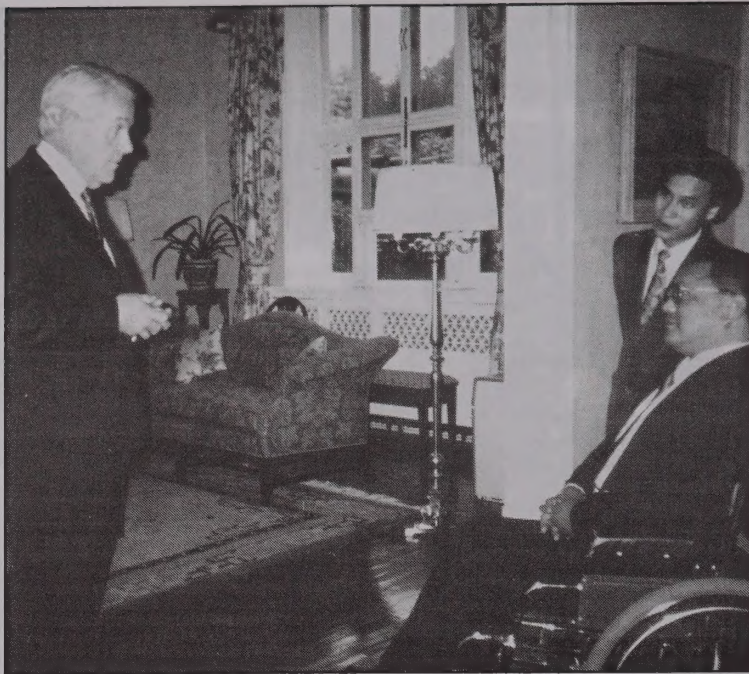
Meanwhile, Labour MP Alf Morris has introduced a Civil Rights Bill for disabled people in Northern Ireland in yet another attempt to get anti-discrimination legislation passed.

The Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) (Northern Ireland) Bill is down for its second reading on 2 July. The Government has repeatedly blocked Mr Morris' UK-wide bill in the Commons,

despite a motion supporting it signed by 302 MPs. If the Irish bill is unsuccessful, it will be followed by a Scottish, a Welsh, then another UK bill.

The Irish Bill's cross party supporters include the Reverend Martin Smyth (Ulster Unionists) and the Reverend Ian Paisley (Democratic Unionists). The Reverend Smyth said: "There is a seething unrest as to why the Government has wilfully opposed by procedural methods something which so many people want."

Alf Morris said: "To obstruct this more limited measure in the only Parliament that can legislate for them, when all their parliamentary representatives support the Bill, would be at once constitutionally and morally indefensible."



## China welcomes Scott

Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott presented some Possum equipment to Deng PuFang, head of China's Disabled People's Federation (above, seated right), during his visit there from 28 May to 4

June. As well as visiting a home for deaf children opened by former PM Ted Heath, Mr Scott went to a rehabilitation centre, a sheltered workshop and the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development.

## Peers battle on behalf of children

Peers are winning some important new concessions for children with special needs as the Education Bill makes its way through the House of Lords.

Campaigners hope the changes will survive when the Bill returns to the Commons.

During a marathon session on 14 June they passed amendments which will require local education authorities to plan provision for children with special needs throughout their area.

And the code of practice on

special education - which will lay down, for example, a time limit for making statements - will be tougher. Any departure from it must be proven to be as beneficial to the child as sticking to the code.

The Government accepted amendments which mean that local authorities must provide nursery education for three to five-year-olds with special needs, and keep under review their arrangements for making schools accessible.

Philippa Stobbs, policy offi-

cer for the Special Educational Consortium - whose members include the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Spastics Society - said: "These are significant changes and will be important in ensuring the availability of a whole range of services for children with special educational needs."

She is urging people to write to their MPs and ask them to preserve the amendments.

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

### Review out soon

The Government's review of the Employment Services' special schemes for disabled people is out soon.

Employment Minister Michael Forsyth told the Commons on 10 June that the review would result in "more effective arrangements for providing special employment help to disabled people". The review, due at the end of June, is not expected to produce any radical revision of policy.

### Railcards safe

The Government is to guarantee that private rail operators continue to offer discount railcards for elderly and disabled people. An amendment will be made to the Railways Bill as it passes through the Lords.

Another amendment will require the rail regulator to draw up a Code of Practice for operators in consultation with the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee. Disability groups are waiting to find out how the Code will be enforced.

### Transport lobby

Dial-A-Ride and Taxicard Users (DaRT) will be making the journey to Parliament on 13 July to demand better transport for disabled people. As well as lobbying, DaRT members will be able to see London's new low floor bus.

DaRT, tel: 071-482 2325.

### SDP concession

Disabled people will no longer lose entitlement to Severe Disability Premium (SDP) if the person they live with is blind.

One of the qualifying rules for the £33.70 a week benefit is that you must "live alone". Social Security Under Secretary Alistair Burt told the Commons in May: "This change recognises that someone who is blind should not be expected to care for a severely disabled person."

The National SDP Campaign is calling for the benefit to be paid to all severely disabled people who meet the other qualifying rules, regardless of with whom they live. Up to 180,000 families are being denied the benefit unfairly, it says.

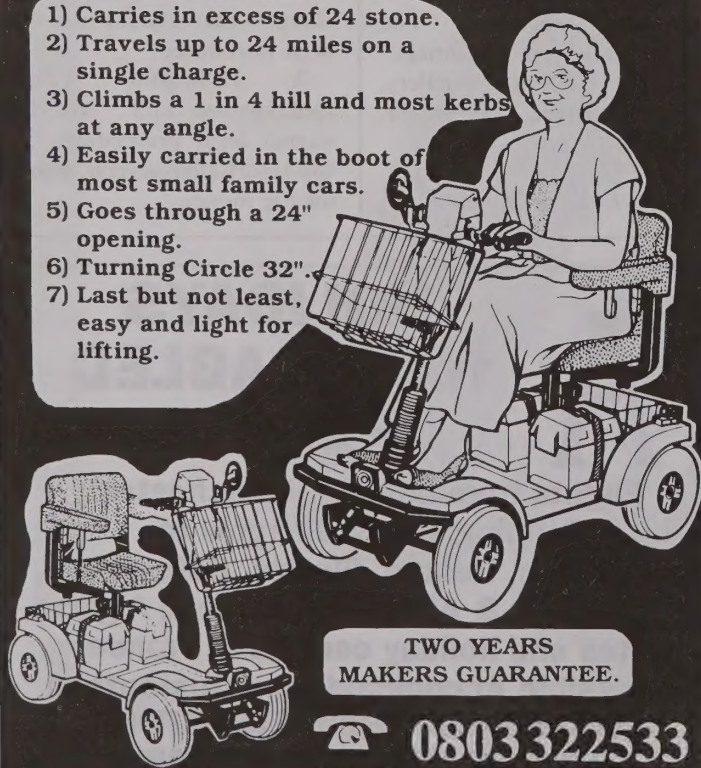
### Care watchdog

A group of disabled people and carers has been set up to keep the Government in touch with what is happening with community care.

The Community Care National User and Carer Group will report regularly to health ministers. Its 21 members include Spastics Society executive council member Glynn Vernon and Dorothy White, chairperson of the Relatives Association.

## Walking Problems?

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## New face for jobs

May's cabinet reshuffle brought a new face to employment and some interesting moves in the lower ranks responsible for policy towards disabled people.

David Hunt takes over from Employment Secretary Gillian Shephard. Mr Hunt, 51, is the MP for Wirral West. He has held a variety of Government posts, including Minister of



David Hunt

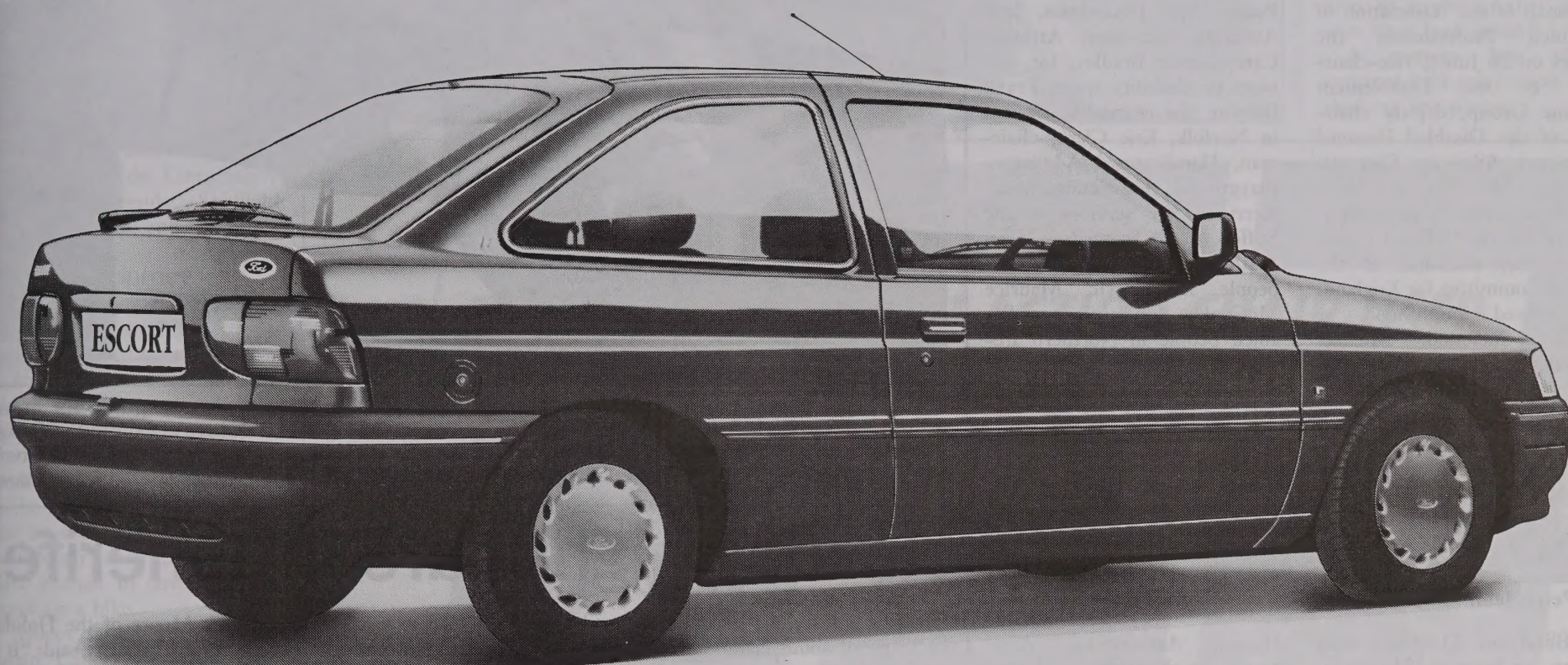
State for Energy during the 1984-85 miners' strike, and Secretary of State for Wales. A former solicitor, he is known as left-ish and he is a member of the All Party Disablement Group (APDG). But, having served as an assistant whip and deputy chief whip, he is likely

to hold fast to the party line.

Battersea MP John Bowis, replaces Tim Yeo as Under Secretary for Health. Mr Bowis takes over responsibility for community care from Health Minister Dr Brian Mawhinney. Mr Bowis' other responsibilities include: personal social services; services for elderly and disabled people, special hospitals, and the voluntary sector, including section 64 grants. He has more of a reputation for an interest in education rather than social services, but he has spoken in favour of more support for pensioners and he is a member of the APDG.

William Hague, 32, takes over from Ann Widdecombe as Under Secretary for Social Security. Mr Hague, MP for Richmond, Yorkshire, is a former Parliamentary Private Secretary to ex-Chancellor Norman Lamont. Previous jobs include spells as a political advisor and a management consultant. His main responsibilities are pensions and widows' benefits. He is not an APDG member.

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# Arise Sir Peter

Veteran disability campaigner Peter Large was awarded a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June.

Mr Large, chairman of the Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People, is also chairman of the Association of Disabled Professionals (he retires on 26 June), vice-chairman of the Disablement Income Group, deputy chairman of the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee, and a Motability governor.

Duncan Watson, past president of the World Blind Union and former chairman of the Access Committee for England, also received a knighthood.

OBEs included: Michael Barrett, general secretary and treasurer, National League of

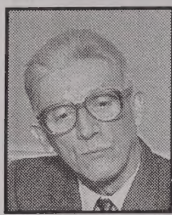
for services to Scottish disability sport; Jill Pitkeathley, director of the Carers' National Association.

MBEs included: Kathleen Archer, member of the Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities; Jean Ashcroft, vice-chair, Arthritis Care; Carole Bradley, for services to disability sport; Frank Browne, for charitable services in Norfolk; Eric Clark, chairman, Handicapped Adventure Playground Association; Pearl Kerridge, for services to the Suffolk Deaf Association; Jean Matheson, for services to blind people in Argyll; Maurice McConkey, for services to disabled people in Northern Ireland; Eunice Paxman, chairman, National Care



Disabled Londoner Philip Rule (*above*) gives the seal of approval to a new guide for house builders launched during National Housing Week, 7-14 June. Haringey Council's *Design Guide for Disabled People* is available from Building Design Services, Haringey Council, Hornsey Town Hall, Crouch End, Broadway, London N8 8JJ.

ROY CUCKOW



Sir Peter, Jean Ashcroft, Sam Gallop and Jill Pitkeathley

the Blind and Disabled; Sam Gallop, ex-honorary chairman, Opportunities for People with Disabilities; Andrew Mitchell,

Homes Association; Anne Scott, ex-chairperson, Action Disability, Kensington and Chelsea.

## No room for Trixi

*Continued from page 1*

she lost Trixibelle. Ms Brooks has also contacted Linda Hams, of the Dogs for the Disabled charity, who said: "Pets can be very therapeutic for disabled people."

"We know a lot of housing authorities do ban dogs, which can be extremely distressing for

many owners."

A spokesperson for the Housing Association said: "The case is in the hands of our management team."

"We have always had a policy not to allow dogs at our housing schemes, except guide dogs. This is made clear on the notes accompanying the application form and is discussed with prospective tenants."

Disabled holiday makers should be sceptical about claims made by tour operators, say a group who suffered a nightmare holiday in Tenerife.

When the Shaw Trust organised the trip for 21 disabled people and four helpers in May, staff were assured by tour operators Enterprise Holidays that the special needs of the party would be catered for.

But when the party arrived there was no wheelchair access to *en-suite* bathrooms and toilets until doors had been removed. Privacy was only preserved by makeshift curtains

and one person had to wash in a waste paper bin. Not enough rooms had been allocated. People were crammed three to a double room. And the hotel's public areas were inaccessible to some of the group.

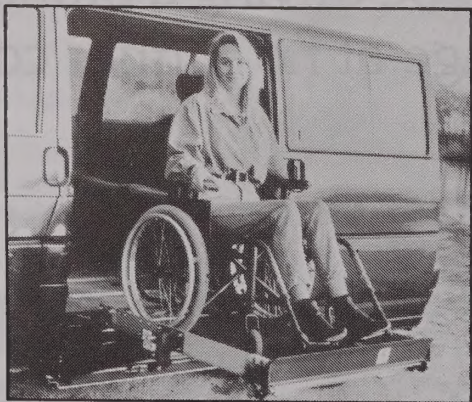
Shaw Trust director general Tim Pape said: "Our staff were shocked by the uncaring, unhelpful and grudging attitude of the hotel proprietors. This shows that disabled people should not necessarily believe tour operators' claims that the accommodation they are offering includes full provision for people with disabilities."

Derek Moore of the Holiday Care Service\* charity said: "It is vitally important people check with us about hotel facilities before they book their holidays. We can send them information sheets on accessible hotels in holiday locations throughout Britain and Europe."

A spokesperson for Enterprise Holidays said: "We take the needs of disabled people very seriously and will be investigating the complaint by Shaw Trust to find out what went wrong."

\*Tel: (0293) 774535.

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## Ramp victory

*Continued from page 1*

iser has launched a campaign to help other disabled people waiting for adaptations. She said: "There are thousands of others who face unnecessary hardship because they are trapped in their homes without the adaptations they need."

"Councils say they do not have the funding to do anything about it, but as they have a statutory duty to provide aids and adaptations, this is not a good enough excuse. Perhaps the time has come for people to start taking councils to court."

Labour MP Alf Morris said: "It is terrible that disabled people are being forced to wait so long for adaptations they badly need."

"I would urge them to seek legal advice and write to the Secretary of State for Health, Virginia Bottomley."

A spokesperson for Sheffield council said: "We plough a lot of resources into making adaptations but it is not equal to demand. In the past we were able to spend more money, but this isn't possible anymore because the Government has limited our capital spending."

## IN BRIEF

## Centres to open

A dozen carers' centres are to open over the next five years, thanks to a £3 million donation from the Prudential Insurance company.

The centres, set up by Crossroads and The Princess Royal Trust for Care, will provide home care, support, and counselling. They are to be situated in Sutton, Glamorgan, Newry, Tyneside, Lincolnshire, Essex, Merseyside, Sheffield, London, Bristol and Reading.

## Fantastic journey

A British couple have raised £8,000 for charity by crossing Japan in record-breaking time.

Irish wheelchair user Diarmuid Brittain and Christine Ashe, from London, completed the 1,652-mile journey in just under three months. Diarmuid is the first person with paraplegia to make the journey in a wheelchair and Christine the first woman to cover the distance on a bike.

Money raised will go to the Japan Cancer Research Institute and the International Spinal Research Trust.

## Mothers miss out

Mothers of disabled children have little time to socialise because of demands on their time, an American study revealed this month.

Author Terry Crowe, a researcher at the University of New Mexico, asked 90 mothers of disabled children and 45 mothers of able-bodied children to record how they use their time each day.

The study, published in the current edition of *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology* magazine, showed that mothers of able-bodied children spend four to six more hours a week socialising. This is because mothers of multiply disabled children spend, on average, an hour more a day on child care. Mr Crowe believes more research is needed into the effect of integrating a disabled child into a family.

*Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, July, £10, tel: 071-794 9859.

## Celebratory sculpture

A sculpture by DN arts reviewer Adam Reynolds has been unveiled to commemorate the 40th anniversary of The Spastics Society.

It is the first piece of public art to be designed by a disabled artist and is placed next to a new pond outside the charity's Midlands regional office. The bridge-like structure has coloured shapes suspended from it. Forty model newts will be placed around the office.

Midlands regional office, Clewes Road, Oakenshaw, Redditch.



STEWART PERKINS PHOTOGRAPHY

American potter Mary Bulger has begun designing tableware for people with disabilities.

Mary, who crossed the Atlantic to take an MA in industrial design at Wolverhampton University's School of Art because she could not find a suitable course in the States, said: "I aim to make quality products that look good."

A pottery has shown interest and may soon start making the plates.

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## Brain cells get protein protection

Scientists at Bristol University have made a discovery which could lead to a major advance in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

They have manufactured a protein, Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), which appears to increase the survival rate of

brain nerve cells affected by the condition.

NGF occurs naturally in the body but has to be manufactured because it is produced in quantities too small to isolate.

The Bristol scientists managed to genetically engineer the protein by cloning the human gene and inserting it into a caterpillar virus.

This virus was used to infect caterpillar cells grown in culture. These were then able to produce a large and continuous supply of the protein.

Dr David Dawbarn, who has spent five years working on the project, said: "We hope NGF will also help people with other neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease and motor neurone disease."

"We hope to start clinical trials later this year and, if these prove successful, NGF treatments could begin in two or three years' time."

A spokesperson for the Alzheimer's Disease Society said: "This is a very important development which may even-

tually lead to a new treatment. It will be several years before this happens, however."

## Mice used to fight diabetes

Mice with the symptoms of human diabetes have been created by genetic engineering to test new drugs for people with the condition.

The "diabetic mouse", which is healthy apart from its inability to rid its blood of excess sugar immediately after a meal, was created by inserting human insulin genes into the cells of ordinary mice.

It was done by scientists working for the American biotechnology company DNX.

The mice have been designed to mimic type two diabetes, which usually occurs in middle age and results from the body's inability to respond to insulin.

People with this type of diabetes are usually overweight and their blood sugar level is unnaturally high. There is no treatment other than to diet, which is often difficult.

Mark Swanson, scientific director of DNX, said: "The creation of these mice is an important breakthrough because effective cures for type two diabetes have been greatly hampered by the inability of scientists to design an animal model that they can test new drugs on."

A spokesperson for the British Diabetic Association said: "We feel this work is very important and, if it is successful, may prove very useful in the search for a new treatment."

## Walk away from pain

New research has revealed that regular exercise in well-padded training shoes can ease the pain of osteoarthritis of the knee.

Work by Professor Paul Dieppe at Bristol University's rheumatology department has disproved the traditional view that arthritic joints need to be rested. Instead, sensible exercise, such as walking, appears to be more beneficial.

The Bristol research has shown that cartilage in the knee needs regular movement and exercise if it is to remain strong.

Professor Dieppe, who has studied arthritis for 15 years, said: "The old belief that joints wear out and cannot repair themselves is absolutely wrong. The joint has a wonderful capacity to repair itself - as long as you keep to normal activities."

"On the other hand, resting a joint can actually do harm by weakening the cartilage."

The Bristol team has recommended that people with osteoarthritis of the knee should wear training shoes with well-padded insoles.

"These shoes are more comfortable and cut down on pain because they absorb the sudden, high velocity impact that shoots through the bones and joints when the foot hits the ground," said Professor Dieppe.

His team is now trying to find the best type of shoe to help the 1.5 million people in Britain with the condition.

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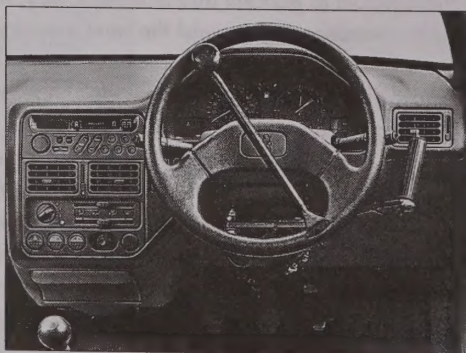
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## Job schemes grow

Four new job schemes for disabled people started last month.

Southern Derbyshire Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) and a consortium of charities, including MENCAP and the Spastics Society, have set up a centre offering practical help to disabled job seekers.

Derby's Disability Employment Centre will assess people's skills, help them find jobs, put employers in touch with disabled candidates, and give disabled staff training and support.

Westminster College, Oxford, and the Disabled Graduates Careers Information Service are running a free service to help disabled graduates find jobs. It started last month and runs until November.

Essex TEC and the Disabled Information Advice Line have set up an information and advice centre in Clacton run by and for disabled people. The

centre, partly funded by the European Social Fund, provides advice for all disabled people as well as on the job training for ten physically disabled people from the Tendring area.

The North Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Disabled Employers Network was launched by Milton Keynes TEC in June. Members include Rempoy, Volkswagon and the Shaw Trust.

Co-ordinator Anne Medd said: "We aim to help employers recruit and retain disabled people by offering conferences and workshops and creating closer links with service providers."

*Southern Derbyshire TEC, tel: (0332) 290550. Westminster College, tel: (0865) 247644. Essex TEC, tel: (0245) 450123. Anne Medd, tel: (0908) 601349.*

## Conductive Education group planned

A national organisation for Conductive Education, which would oversee work with children, adolescents and adults, came a step closer in June.

At a conference organised by the Spastics Society and the

Conductive Education Association, a working party was elected to complete plans, check out the draft constitution and produce an interim report by December. Its proposals will then go to a further conference.

### Benefits: the axe is poised

*Continued from page 1*

ment is to make disabled people pay for the recession. They are creating a climate of fear and insecurity."

The Lilley letter followed months of rumours about IVB and an assurance by the Prime Minister in June that Government cutbacks would not harm "vulnerable" people.

Speaking on Radio Four's *Today* in June, Mr Lilley said: "There is no question of taking away from those who are genuinely sick and are in need and wanting help. It is a question of getting the right benefits to the right people."

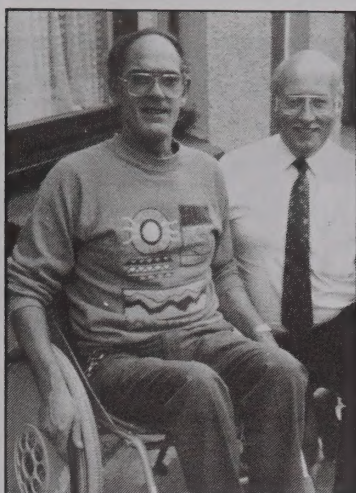
Meanwhile, the Government has further angered disability groups by selecting Robert Hayward as the Tory candidate for this month's Christchurch by-election. The ex-Bristol Kingswood MP talked out Alf Morris's Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill last January.

Chris Perkins, deputy chairperson of Kingswood Council of Disabled People, said: "It is important that disabled people in Christchurch make it clear to him that he must improve if he is to represent them as an MP."

The disability campaign group, Direct Action Network, plans to hold demonstrations in Christchurch this month.

Spokesperson Alan Holdsworth said: "Robert Hayward's nomination has added insult to injury. We will be urging people not to vote for this man or his party, whose IVB proposals are a savage attack on millions of disabled people."

## Rempoy wheelchair winners



Two *DN* readers will be getting out and about this summer in their new wheelchairs, thanks to their own talents and the generosity of Rempoy. James Ritchie from Larkhall, Lanarkshire (above) won the Roller active user chair. David Flaxman from Streetley, Sutton Coldfield (right), won the Stowaway - and wants to spread the good news about *DN*. Both are pictured with David Kay, Rempoy's national sales manager. Having answered the five questions correctly, Mr Ritchie's tie-breaker was: In my new Rempoy wheelchair I would like to ... "discover the New in New York". Mr Flaxman leapt into verse with ... "I'd like to turn the wheels with joyful shout, How wonderful it feels to be out and about". (Correct answers were: 1. 273 2. 1/3 3. Plymouth Dome 4. Charity offering travel advice 5. Nottingham.)



## Pressure builds for better public loos

Council leaders are being urged to review the number and condition of their public loos.

The campaigning group All Mod Cons, made up of organisations like the National Federation of Bus Users and Townswomen's Guilds, wants legislation to improve provision for everyone. Its new report, sent to all council chiefs, includes demands for double

(in some places treble), the number of women's loos, better access, signposting and larger cubicles to allow many disabled people to cope with "standard" facilities.

\* The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) has launched *You, Your Partner and Continence*, a video, audio-cassette and hand-

book to get people talking about incontinence and personal relationships.

*Public In-Conveniences*, £3.50 for individuals, £5 for organisations (inc p&pp) from All Mod Cons, c/o the Continence Foundation, tel: 071-404 6875.

ASBAH video, £25 for disabled adults, £45 for organisations. tel: (0733) 555988.

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DN 7/93

# Protestors want access now

Richard Armitage reports

Disabled people demonstrated outside the 50th Congress of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) in Sydney, Australia, in May.

The Sydney-based campaign group Citizens for Accessible Transport (CAT) picketed a session about accessible passenger transport. They met operators from all over the world and demanded access to trains and buses.

CAT convenor Ian Cooper said: "We are concerned that this Congress is being held in Sydney, a city where public transport is least accessible to people with disabilities. We realise that everything cannot be changed at once, but we want a commitment for it to happen in our lifetime."

An Italian delegate, Dr Sergio Carotenuto, also criticised organisers for booking Sydney, where not one bus was accessible. He joined the demonstrators outside when the debate ended.

Jack Gilstrap of the American Public Transport Association (APTA) told the Congress how his organisation had fought disabled campaigners over accessible transport throughout the 1980s but lost the battle when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed.

He said APTA is now having to co-operate with disability organisations so as to secure funding needed to implement

access requirements laid down by the ADA.

But comments by other delegates made it clear that the American lesson is not being heeded in other countries, especially Britain.

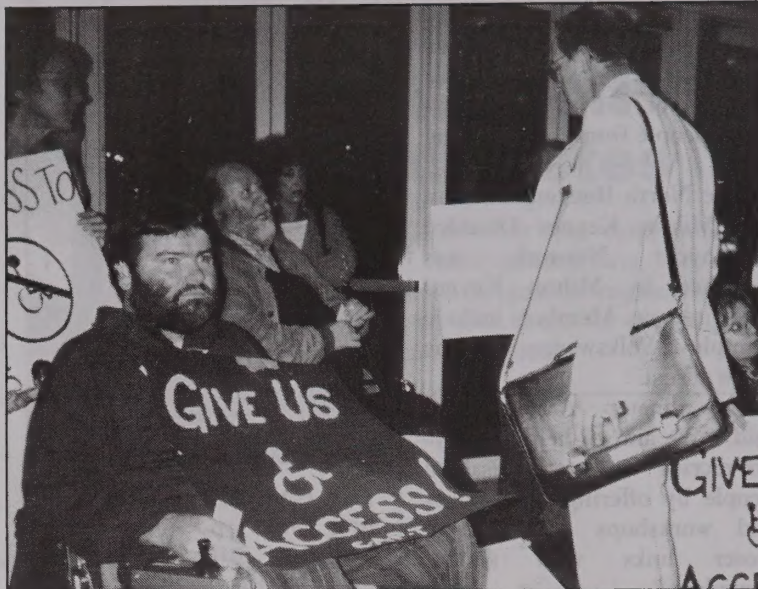
Don Colston, finance director of the large Birmingham-based bus operator, West Midlands Travel, said: "Disabled access is logistically impossible." Anyone who has tried to get on one of his buses will know exactly what he means.

European bus operators at the Sydney Congress debated a draft of some European Commission (EC) legislation called Special Provisions for Buses and Coaches.

It contains many clauses that could improve the accessibility of buses built in the European Community. But UITP and other bus operators are campaigning hard to get all references to access deleted from the main part of the new regulation. They want any access requirements to be made strictly optional.

Buses For All, a UK-based campaign group, is trying to convince the EC to adopt bus construction rules that would establish minimum levels of accessibility.

*Buses For All, c/o Dial-a-Ride and Taxicard Users Association, St Margarets, 25 Leighton Road, London NW5 2QD, tel: 071-482 2325.*



Let us on board – Ian Cooper (left) and other Citizens for Accessible Transport members demand access to transport. IAN YEARSLEY

## Job hopes dashed

The European Commission (EC) has scrapped plans to provide 25 jobs for disabled people within its own administration.

The EC proposal was vetoed in May by its own budgetary authority, who decided the move would be too expensive.

European disability groups, who believe the Commission should be doing more to promote equal opportunities for disabled people, are urging the Commission to think again.

Tony Lumley, director of Mobility International, said: "The EC has an obligation to provide jobs for disabled people and should be setting an exam-

ple to other organisations."

A spokesperson for the European Community Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf said: "The EC has a poor record on employing disabled people and is unwilling to improve things."

Gerard Thies, of the EC's Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration, said: "The EC requested 25 posts to be reserved for handicapped people, but the budgetary authority could not accede to this. It is a matter of regret, but should not stop the vast majority of disabled people being employed by us."

## Angry calls for college crackdown

The American Education Department is being urged to crackdown on colleges that discriminate against disabled people.

Departmental documents, which were kept secret until disclosed in April by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* newspaper, revealed that 46 colleges broke the Americans with Disabilities Act last year.

Bethel College of Tennessee sent a letter to admissions counsellors to "discourage" them from admitting students with physical disabilities, while the College of Saint Scholastica in Minnesota denied a deaf student's request for a sign language interpreter. Tuskegee University had 28 illegally inaccessible buildings and Oregon University failed to upgrade computers so blind people could use them.

Disability campaigners are angry that the cases were not publicised and few of the colleges penalised. The Department is being urged to name people who break the law and withdraw federal funding from offending colleges if necessary.

Linda Kilb of the American charity, Disability Rights Education and Defence Fund, said: "It's a grave concern that there are so many violations of the law. More must be done to stop this discrimination."



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## New French council born

France's first national council for disabled people has been set up by the country's leading disability groups.

The French Council of Disabled People for European Questions aims to promote the interests of French people with disabilities in both the European Community and at home.

It was founded by eight leading French disability groups, most of which have a majority of disabled people on their management committees.

Member organisations include groups for deaf people, blind people, amputees and wheelchair users.

Yvon Dutertre, Secretary General of the French Federation of the Deaf, has been elected as the first chairman.

Spokesperson Veronique Claude said: "The Council will promote integration, independent living and the rights of disabled people by lobbying Euro MPs and holding meetings with ministers."

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# New race stars in dazzling form

Many of Britain's top track athletes missed the 1993 National Wheelchair Championships at Stoke Mandeville in June, but this did not stop the event being as exciting as ever.

With Paralympic stars like Tanni Grey and Rose Hill choosing to race at the Heidelberg Marathon, many of our less famous racers were handed a rare opportunity to shine.

Martin Ketterick was the first to grab the limelight with superb wins in the 10,000m, 5,000m, 800m and 100m races. Clair Williams was also in outstanding form, taking the F1/F2/F3 200m and 400m women's titles.

There were many fine performances in the field events. Manchester's Ernie Guild added a National gold medal to his Paralympic bronze in the F7 shot, while James Richardson, from Newcastle, broke the world record with five of his six throws in the F1 discus.

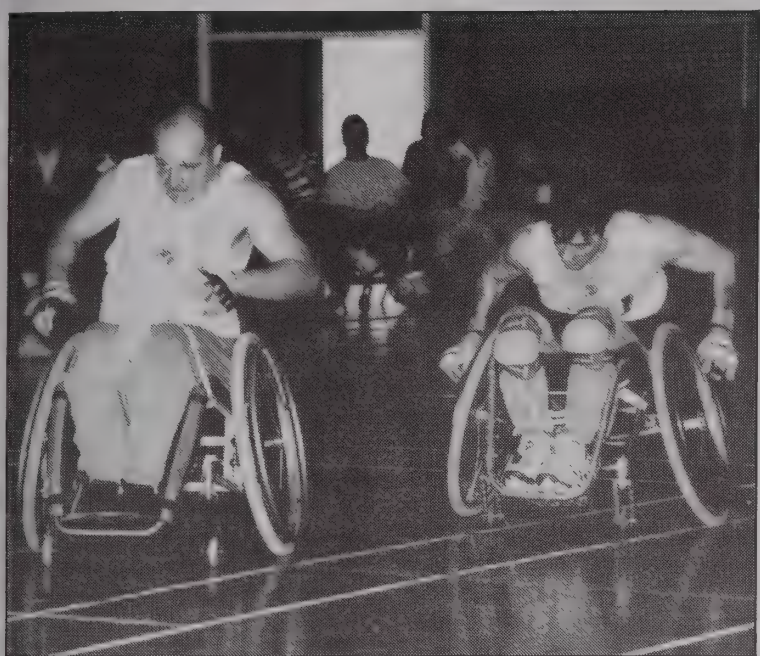
Karen Newton, from Northampton, outscored Joan Cooper to win the women's archery with a score of 2,230. In the men's event, Sandy Gregory, from Glasgow, topped the scoring with a total of 2,318.

Action Steelers won the basketball, while Birmingham Bandits became wheelchair rugby champions.



On your marks: William Craner (right), from Sherborne Fields School, sets the pace at the British Sports Association for the Disabled's Mini Games. Held at Aylesbury in May, this year's Games gave disabled children, aged eight to 12, a chance to take part in various sports, including athletics, swimming and boccia.

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY



Smash and grab: Birmingham Bandits rugby team steal a thrilling 25-24 win over the Stoke Mandeville Spartans at the National Wheelchair Games.

## Whiteley's a Wolverhampton winner

The seventh annual Blind British Sports Championships were held at Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton, in June.

Thirteen new championship best performances were set as athletes tried to impress the British team selectors before September's European Championships in Dublin.

The busiest man was pentathlete Mark Whiteley. He

competed in six events, winning five and coming second in the other. He was awarded the best male athlete award after setting new championship bests in the shot and discus events.

Steve Cobb, from Leicester, looks a future star after winning the B3 1,500m and coming second in the 800m, while Tracey Hinton won the B1 100m and 200m races. She

also set a new record in the 200m.

Rachel Earp won the B3 long jump and high jump events but the best female athlete award went to Sharon Bolton for taking the 100m and 200m titles.

Sport is written by  
Tim Russell,  
tel: 071-636 5020

## Geordie sailor storms to victory

Newcastle sailor Brian Clarke stormed to an impressive victory in the Sheffield Lodge Moor Regatta in May.

Clarke, who has spina bifida and races in a Sunbird boat, was presented with the York-

shire Water trophy after beating Ken James, from Sheffield, into second place. Ken Willett, also from Sheffield, came third.

"The winds were really blowing and the water quite rough, which is just how I like

it," said Brian. "This gave me an advantage over my rivals and I knew I had to make the most of it."

Ken James collected the Ian Todd trophy for being the best placed Sheffield sailor.

## Deadly Dave

Two outstanding athletes starred at the British Wheelchair Racing Association's National Championships held at Leicester in May.

The men's events were dominated by Dave Holding, whose turn of speed left his opponents for dead. He won the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, 5,000m and 10,000m races.

Tanni Grey overcame the disappointment of coming third in the 1993 London marathon, to win the women's 100m, 200m, 400m 800m, 1,500m and 10,000m national titles.

## Ski fun day

An open day for disabled people will be held at Hemel Hempstead dry ski slope on 18 July.

The aim is to introduce as many disabled people as possible to the sport. The day starts at 10.30 am when qualified instructors will give lessons. A free lunch is provided.

Louise Blyth, tel: (0494) 773080.

## Creative Activity within the Black Disabled Community

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Alison Rowat reports

# Snow White and the 86 firms

With her good heart and business brain, Susan Scott-Parker, 40, is a bit of a cross between Snow White and Margaret Thatcher. As director of the Employers' Forum on Disability, she aims to get you singing "hi ho, hi ho, it's off to work I go". How? By being the business leaders' friend.

The Forum aims to "promote employment for disabled people by making it easier for employers to recruit, retain and develop disabled employees". It will *not* find you a job, but it will support organisations who believe you have as much right to one as anybody else. Firms pay £500 to join, then £1,000 a year. "Gold Card" members like Barclays Bank, British Gas and British Telecom, pay £6,000 a year.

To some, Ms Scott-Parker's organisation represents the still-unacceptable face of capitalism, a sticking plaster on a wound that only anti-discrimination legislation (ADL) can salve.

Others credit the Forum with making progress where Government has failed, and see her as the woman who has made British business sit up and take notice of disabled people as employees and customers.

Either way, the Forum and its director mean business.

## The buzz

Susan Scott-Parker arrived in the UK from Canada in 1981. She had worked for the government and then, as an independent consultant, advised

disabled people on setting up and marketing their own services. Although her degree was in history, she was a business natural, addicted to the buzz of getting things done.

She published Canada's first market research into how firms see (or don't see) disabled people. This brought her to the attention of the UK's Business in the Community. Out of that contact the Employers' Forum on Disability was unofficially born in 1986. Then it had five members. Today it has 86.

Part of that success (the Forum has only two other full-time staff), is doubtless due to Ms Scott-Parker's Iron Lady-like drive and Snow-Whiteish charm. David Fletcher, sales director of Brook Street Bureau, a Forum member, praised her determination: "She really believes in the fact that employers have got to do something practical to get disabled people into work."

Above all, she talks to employers in a language they understand.

"It has been very difficult for employers to view disability as a business issue," she says. "Traditionally, it's been seen as a charity issue. The message they read is that they're supposed to hire disabled people from some sense of altruism, morality. What we're saying is that it makes good business sense to employ disabled people because you're employing talent. You're not going to hire a disabled person who can't do the job."

As well as publications, conferences, seminars, information exchanges, videos, contact lunches, employing disability consultants and running awareness training, the Forum created the Employers' Agenda on Disability, launched by Prime Minister John Major in 1992.

Among other things, the

member firms adopted the Agenda (this has now grown to 50). Over half the 42 had tried to become more accessible, a quarter guaranteed an interview to every disabled applicant who met minimum requirements, and one in six were using the Government's two tick symbol (re-launched last month) to

"What we need to do is establish some basic principles. If it costs significantly more to recruit disabled people than it does to recruit others, that will not make our job easier."

"At the moment, we have precedents which say that these costs should be shared between employers and Government. I would be confident that we would continue to ask Government to operate from that set of assumptions. It is about partnership, and the vast majority of disabled people do not require extra costs. Those that do should not be disadvantaged."

## An entrepreneur

It is not only because of her high-powered connections that Ms Scott-Parker matters. She has just been appointed a member of the group which advises Training and Enterprise Councils on special needs. She also knows the personal cost of prejudice: her husband was forced into early retirement from his job as a tv programme maker because of his disability (he is visually impaired). But she has attracted criticism for being a non-disabled person in such an important position.

"If a disabled person had set [the Forum] up they would be running it," she counters. "I'm an entrepreneur, of some sorts, and so in effect it just happened because I had the ideas and the energy and I was there."

"But, also, the important thing here is that we do not represent disabled people. We do not work for disabled people directly. We represent employers."

She has tried to involve radical groups such as the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People in the Forum, without success. "They just flatly refuse to sit at the same table as us which is sad. I think it's working to a rather outdated view of the world."

"For me, disability is fundamentally a human rights issue. One of the most powerful ways people are enfranchised in our system is by working. With economic empowerment comes political empowerment."



Susan Scott-Parker: "jobs mean empowerment"

Agenda exhorts employers to "take all reasonable steps to ensure that the working environment does not prevent disabled people from taking up positions for which they are suitably qualified"; and to "review and develop recruitment procedures which encourage application from and the employment of people with disabilities".

In the first year, 42 Forum

encourage disabled people to apply (DN, May).

## Employers on the spot

This is all good stuff, but with an unemployment rate running at double that of non-disabled people, many now argue that only ADL can force a change.

Ms Scott-Parker has been smart enough to see this coming and quick enough to ensure that the Forum will have its say when the time comes. She is to survey members on ADL, asking if and how they want it, and a Government Relations Group has been formed. (The Broadcasters' Forum on Disability, an off-shoot of the Forum, has already come out in favour).

One of the Government's main objections to ADL is the possible costs to employers. Won't business naturally oppose it? She chose her words carefully. (This was one of several points during the interview when she asked me to switch the tape off till she composed her answer. On one occasion, she switched it off.)

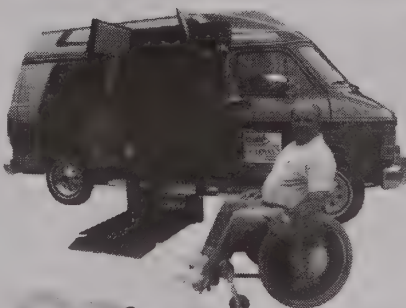
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David Keay argues that "survivors" like himself should swell the disability movement

After surviving 10 years of psychiatry and four years searching for alternatives, I've peeled off every label attached to me. I've had "personality disorders", "temporal lobe epilepsy"; I've been called "manic", a "manic depressive", "schizophrenic".

Now I call myself "a survivor". The term acknowledges the distress I've been through but, crucially, it has a positive image.

Survivors Speak Out (SSO) was founded in the mid '80s to make the voice of mental health service users heard. SSO promotes self advocacy - survivors speaking for themselves - to ensure that our views contribute to a wholesale change in the drug-centred psychiatric system.

A member of the World Federation of Psychiatric Users, SSO has over 300 members. About two thirds are survivors; the rest are allies or groups.

Information sharing among groups, professionals and the media is one of the most important things we do. We have our own publications.

SSO has contributed to the current review of mental health legislation, is represented on MIND national committees and on a consultative group of the Central Council for the Education and Training of Social Workers. We train survivors to increase their skills and involvement, and professionals to increase their awareness of the importance of involving people in the planning and provision of services.

### Fears of being "disabled"

Whether SSO is part of the disability movement has not been resolved.

Clearly, there are strong parallels between the two - anyone who believes in the social model of disability would find that survivors are constantly disabled by society.

But there are many survivors who do not see themselves as disabled. Some fear that if they are seen as disabled, it will reinforce the medical/brain chemistry model of mental illness.

There are also many people in the disability movement who have little idea of the philosophy of the survivor movement. Some survivors worry that we would lose our unique identity and history - in some way be swallowed up by the disability movement.

SSO has joined forces with the disability movement to campaign for better housing and employment opportunities.

We also support full implementation of the 1986 Disabled Persons Act.

# Mad, maybe, but disabled?



In it together: MIND, Survivors Speak Out and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation called for implementation of the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill in 1992

TIM RUSSELL

Individuals of SSO (some of whom are disabled in other ways) are more deeply involved. One member of the co-ordinating group is a qualified disability awareness trainer, while others have trained disability awareness

**"Is it any wonder that the general public has disablist attitudes when our political leaders use phrases like 'loony left' with flagrant disregard?"**

trainers in our perspective.

My own view has changed from denying that I am disabled - refusing it as just another label - to embracing a role in the disability movement.

### Defying the labels

I hate labels. Labelling is, after drugging and other treatments, the most unpleasant part of psychiatry. Labels like "schizophrenic" are attached for life. With the label goes the bigotry, the misinformation, the exclusion from society.

A psychiatric diagnosis becomes your identity in a way which may even exceed the way a physical disability does. Every time I fail it is because I am "schizophrenic", not because I'm human. My right to refuse happy pills and assorted poisons is taken from me. Even my liberty can be taken from me on the whim of a medical professional who may never have met me.

The biggest factor influencing my changing attitude towards my disability has been the many friends I have met within the disability movement over the last four years.

It started when I campaigned for the Civil

Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, and for reasonable accommodation.

Then, at a fringe meeting of the 1991 Liberal Democrats' conference on the *Disability Manifesto*, I argued that the document failed because it saw disability as mainly physical. Only one of the 13 charities involved represented mental health (MIND) and the result did little to cheer any survivor.

### Common ground

The biggest block to employment for anyone with a psychiatric diagnosis is employers' attitudes and ignorance. We could be disruptive, violent, unreliable, or simply incompetent - even if we were diagnosed 20 years ago with no problems since.

Legislating against such prejudice is practically impossible. The only answer is public education. The whole taboo needs to be broken down. That is something we share with all disabled people.

Media images are stacked against us. Disabled people will be familiar with tv stereotypes, the able-bodied person pretending to be disabled to make a point, for example. We get that all the time (most recently in *Disguises*, one of those hidden camera documentaries).

Demonstrations against *The Guardian's* use of Britannia in a wheelchair and Radio 4's "if your IQ is lower than our frequency" posters compare with our complaints against the way "madness" is portrayed in the adverts.

Language is something many within the disability movement will be aware of. It goes with the stereotypes, the bigotry.

There are many words that disabled people, quite rightly, find offensive. Hardly a day goes by without someone using

the word "schizophrenic" to mean split personality.

Is it any wonder that the general public have disablist attitudes when our political leaders use phrases like "loony left" with flagrant disregard? But, like some people within the disability movement and many black and gay rights activists, we are reclaiming the language. I am a professional lunatic and I believe in lunatics running the asylums!

### "Crazed killer"

Some battles are unique to our movement.

I have lost jobs as a result of

falling asleep the day after a monthly tranquiliser injection. Some of the drugs undermine concentration so much that a task of any complexity may take forever. Others affect co-ordination so that physically precise tasks become impossible. Drugs can make our movements uncontrolled, or make us dribble "and that might upset other employees".

The idea of a crazed killer is common-place. Despite the statistic that "sane" people are more likely to commit murders and other violent crimes than someone diagnosed schizophrenic, the tabloids pounce on the idea that schizophrenia equals violent killer.

When a violent crime takes place within five miles of a psychiatric hospital, the patients are always the first suspects in the media's eyes.

These struggles are ours alone.

But the survivors' movement has much to learn from the wider disability movement, just as we have from the feminist, black and gay movements.

There are many agendas we have in common and I look forward to sharing platforms and workshops with disabled people. I believe we must work together.

Many of my colleagues would benefit from greater contact with disabled people, as many *DN* readers would benefit from a little madness.

David Keay is chair of Survivors Speak Out. Tel: (0494) 774025.

See also book review page 22

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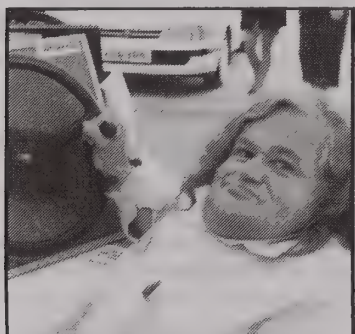


# World's biggest gets even better

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths reports on three days at Crowthorne, Berkshire

Despite massive thunderstorms over much of England in mid-June, the 1993 Roadshow, organised by the Department of Transport, drew huge crowds and managed to escape with just a few showers. People came from far and wide to see what a Quebec visitor described as "the biggest and best mobility show for disabled people in the world".

A young man from Switzerland with congenital limb deformities was overwhelmed by the sheer size of the show. Francesco and Sylvana Miotto drove for three days from Italy hoping to gather new ideas for people with muscular dystrophy who want to drive there, and to clinch the purchase of a joystick steering transit van for



David Griffiths tries the Reselco steering aid

assessments.

Each show brings something new. How often have you dreamed of the wheelchair which after transfer to the car seat swiftly takes itself off to the boot at the touch of a



HRH The Prince of Wales opened the Roadshow and after presenting Kenny Harris of Ormskirk (centre) with the keys to a specially-adapted Chrysler Voyager, went for a spin with him. The Prince also talked to exhibitors.

JOHN FRYE

button? The TMN Robot 2000 does just that in under a minute. Made in Israel by TMN Devices, it drew rousing applause at demonstrations.

Such sophistication doesn't come cheap - the suggested price is around £4,000. TMN claims it is compatible with any saloon car and the whole operation includes automatic locking and releasing of the boot lid. De Langstraat of Holland are the agents, but it should be available through Steering Developments as part of the shared marketing of the European Mobility Group.

Still on wheelchair stowage, the Wymo rooftop loader from Australia is being imported by Cunningham Corporation. At under £1,000, it is excellent value for money and seemed

generally robust. But your wheelchair is left exposed on the roof.

Just a few years ago we were rejoicing in the new-found technologies which made the Ford Transit van driveable from a wheelchair. Steering Developments pioneered much of the work, particularly on joystick controls, and suddenly Britain was a European, if not world, leader in driver technology.

Then came the Voyager from the USA, a "minivan" offering driving-from-a-wheelchair for taller drivers (the Transit lacked cab height). At this Roadshow, Voyagers outnumbered Transits.

A few months ago I was privileged to take the Beram Voyager, converted in Sweden,

out on the track at Crowthorne before its launch in Britain. It has all-electronic joystick controls and MAVIS has now purchased one for the driver assessment facility.

At the Roadshow it was the turn of the IMS Roadrunner version of the Voyager, imported from New Mexico and fitted with DigiDrive by Design and Innovation. Unlike other joystick systems, DigiDrive can be installed relatively quickly and removed in a few hours. On the road I found it controllable and effortless and I was particularly impressed with the smooth braking and the neat touch-sensor panels for all ancillary actions, including ignition. Around £15,000, plus the cost of the vehicle. The system is

various forms of joystick controls. Alfred Bekker also had Voyagers but opted for remote steering rather than joystick to bring down costs, whilst still enabling most drivers with high level tetraplegia or muscular dystrophy to control the vehicle.

Top of the costs was a Voyager "special" which HRH the Prince of Wales went for a drive in after opening the Show. It cost £54,000. Such is the price of freedom.

Not everything new cost an arm and a leg. Reselco showed a quick-release range of steering aids for vehicles fitted with airbag protection, particularly attractive if a vehicle is driven by more than one person. The shaped pegs of the quad-grip version were



Land Rover's Discovery automatic: "needs more glass"

noisy, though.

Steering Developments had a range of Voyagers with

comfortable and felt secure. Prices from about £30.

The Roadshow is also about legislation, new concepts and ideas. Transport Secretary John MacGregor launched the new *Code of Practice for Service Stations*. Drawn up as a result of suggestions from the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DipTac) and the Transport Department, the *Code* means that service stations with full facilities for disabled people will display a white wheelchair symbol on a blue background, while those with no wheelchair access but offering refuelling, oil and water checking, etc, will display the same symbol with "Service only" printed underneath.



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Specialised Vehicle Options' Citroen XM wheelchair conversion: "glass a-plenty"



TMN Robot 2000: a dream come true if you have £4,000

Other roadable goodies: a CASE Digger converted for a wheelchair user by KC Mobility (a UK first?) under their "Back to Work" scheme, which involves converting vehicles from lawnmowers upwards to enable disabled people to become employed; the prototype Nissan Serena from Brotherwood Mobility; and Land Rover's new conversion on the Discovery automatic. This is fitted with a Ratcliff tailift and offers four-wheel drive off-the-road potential for the wheelchair passenger and considerable fun for the driver too. But I was less than impressed with the vision for a wheelchair user: it needs more glass than this.

By contrast, there was glass aplenty in SVO's Citroen XM conversion for a wheelchair passenger, and high quality looking workmanship. But at over £20,000, it might have looked less like a Sicilian hearse in a lighter colour.

Overall, a great Roadshow, teeming with things to do, including go karting and trips

in a hot air balloon. A credit to everyone who took part. Pity, though, that the programmes were so difficult to read - and what about some power chairs on loan next time for those of us who can't use scooters?

Product information, page 30



Standing mobility with Italy's Grillo TRACY SCOLLIN

## Be lucky, ride free

Indefatigable bike rider Rick Hulse explains

The National Association for Bikers with a Disability (NABD) was formed in April 1991 with the aim of helping disabled riders get back on the road. From funding adaptations, it now helps with licensing problems, legal questions, advice on training,

activities. Recent events included a concert by the rock group Hawkwind which raised £2,600 and the annual National Draw which raised £1,000. We are in the process of applying for official charity status.

Although we get very good publicity from some of the



talk about social leper.

The stalls we put on at bike rallies, concerts, race meets etc, usually cause a lot of interest. At the Roadshow (brilliant show, shame about the catering) hundreds of leaflets were picked up,



Easy rider Rick Hulse, NABD's national chairman

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

indeed any problem faced by a disabled person wishing to start or re-start motorcycling.

The Association has always been open to disabled and able-bodied riders, with equal status.

The range of adaptations is endless, from the simple re-positioning of controls to the full-blown trike adapted to take a wheelchair, all funded with money raised from a huge number of fundraising

motorcycle press, it is a different story from the mainstream media. Recently, we were filmed by the BBC for *Comic Relief*, and were told it would make very good tv. Then four or five days before *Comic Relief* day, they dropped it because somebody decided that it would present the wrong image if *Comic Relief* were seen to be helping bikers. Being disabled and a biker -

merchandise sales were steady and we gained a handful of new members, taking us to over 300.

Motorcycle club and group affiliation stands at over 500.

When it comes to biking, given the right adaptations and training, a disability does not have to be a handicap. Be lucky, ride free.

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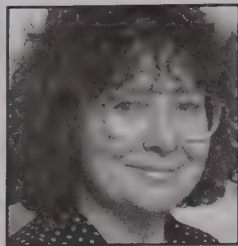


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# Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Housing register needed

In response to the article on the housing needs of disabled people (DN, May), I would make the following points.

My own housing association is involved with elderly people and families, so adaptations have to be made on properties which were meant, in the main, for able-bodied people.

For relatively minor adaptations - hand rails, ramps - social services often supply the equipment and the association arranges fitting.

Difficulties arise when the adaptations involve major capital expense - chair lifts, ground floor WCs. An occupational therapist's report is essential before they will be considered.

A grant from the Housing Association for disabled persons' adaptations is available at the beginning of each financial year, but often this is spent well before the year end.

Associations could use their maintenance budget, but this would leave less money for repairs or improvements to the rest of the housing stock.

Associations must also consider the future letting potential on adapted property. It may be so "customised" for one client as to be difficult to let when it becomes vacant.

As the article says, approaching the local authority or social services is not always the answer, as often they are unaware of disabled families

requiring accommodation or take a long time to identify one. In the meantime, the association loses valuable rent income, which is becoming crucial as their grant levels are reduced and rents increase.

Unless some form of local register can be established showing the housing needs of disabled people, housing associations will be reluctant to carry out major works if they could be left with a property that needs re-improving back to its original condition.

A local authority or housing association waiting list should be able to identify disabled applicants.

**Ian F Ferris**  
Senior housing officer  
Eaves Brook Housing Assoc.  
Accrington, Lancashire

## Conductive Education

The Spastics Society has committed major expenditure to Conductive Education (CE) at a time of serious financial difficulties, training conductors in Budapest, opening a Peto Centre at Fitzroy Square, London, and starting Schools

for Parents (DN, May).

Should this level of expenditure have been directed at what, from all that Robert Hancock has said, is a speculative venture? Are there any other European countries as persuaded of CE's efficacy?

There is an acknowledged shortage of physio and other therapists throughout the country. Are we not in danger of neglecting this provision?

Many schools, some supported by the Society, might claim to be every bit as successful as the Peto Institute. By supporting CE so wholeheartedly, is not the Society implying that they are somehow inferior? Even Peto's claims are restricted to a select group of cp children, as two of our executive members know.

Supporters of CE argue that it can only be judged when its methodology is closely adhered to by fully experienced conductors. This is getting to be a "Catch 22" situation that demands drastic reorganisation of special education services.

When, at last, the 1981 Education Act is being put

into practice, with more integration into mainstream schools, is it wise to be seen backing a scheme impossible to operate in an integrated setting?

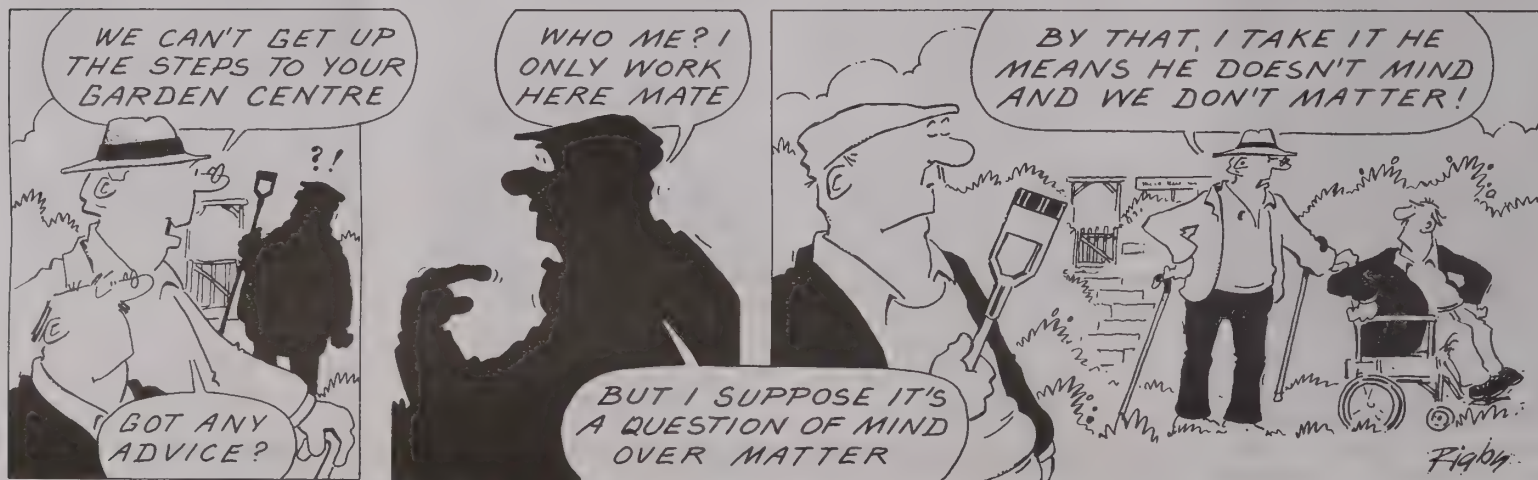
**Executive Committee**  
Portsmouth & District  
Cerebral Palsy Association

*Robert Hancock, director of operations, writes: "The Spastics Society believes that Conductive Education should only ever be one of the options available to children, adults, their parents and carers. It is only a small part of the Society's educational work. The Peto Centre (UK) is self financing and the School for Parents provides massive support to about 600 new families a year in an area where there is little national provision."*

*CE centres are open in Israel, Austria, France, Belgium, Germany, USA, New Zealand and Japan.*

*The joint training of individuals in the skills of teaching, physio, speech, and occupational therapies may be one arena which will considerably help the quality of service to clients when finance for specialist resources is very low. Early interest also enables far more children to integrate more fully into mainstream provision."*

## The Doings of Dan Nugent ("DN" to his friends) by Rigby



## sic

### Theatre thrills

Thanks to *British Deaf News* for the tale of actress Louise Ironside and her disappearing water. Ms Ironside keeps a glass at the side of the stage to quench her thirst during breaks. When one of her contact lenses dropped out, she just popped it into the water to salvage later. Meanwhile, a hot and thirsty interpreter for deaf people had come on the scene. You can guess the rest.

### Macho men

While out collecting for John Grooms Association for Disabled People last month, disabled tv personality Mik Scarlet was surrounded by "a bevy of beauties" according to a rather excitable press release.

John Grooms might be advancing the image of disabled people by using such a switched-on role model, but it's not doing women any favours.

### By-line bravado

The things some journalists will do for a by-line. June's *This Caring Business* trilled: "Community care has left Scotland's private sector shaken not stirred ... our special agent Colin Barron (right) reports." Rumours that DN's Letters to the Editor will be graced with Mary Wilkinson in a postie's uniform, or the sports page by Tim Russell in tennis shorts, have been denied.



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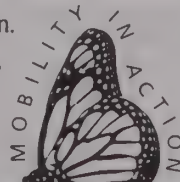
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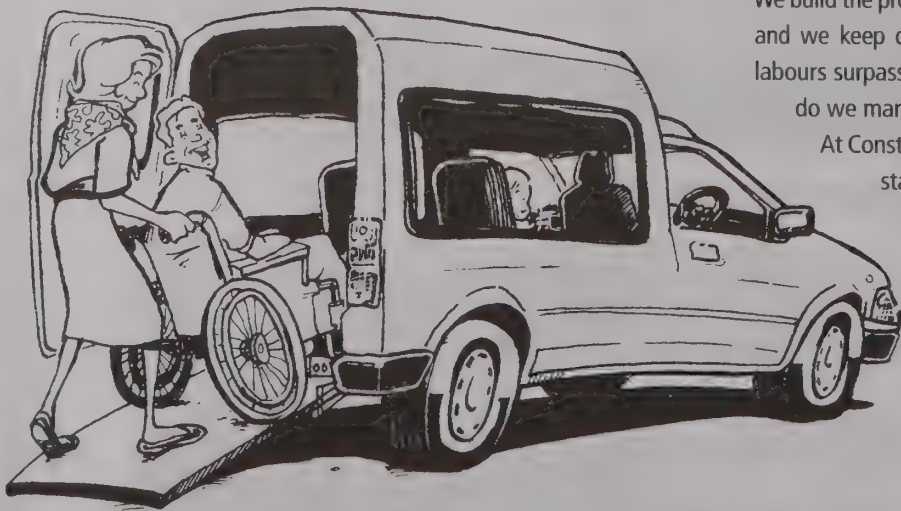
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# Celebration and choice at Chelsea

Gioya Steinke spent a summer's day at the 1993 Chelsea Flower show. Here's her pick of the best gardens

**A garden for all ages  
Action for Blind People**  
Designed as a "garden with a family theme" to celebrate the 1993 European Year of the Older Person and Solidarity between Generations – truly, all this mouthful – it was also a safe and exciting haven for visually impaired people. (You can still go and see it, on a permanent site at Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge, Kent.)

The garden used every inch to the full. Designer Alan Sargent combined variety with safety features without spoiling the feeling of adventure. White ropes slung from white posts guided you firmly along a non-slip path to the bubbling water pool. Large, flat, smooth boulders allowed you to reach out safely to touch three leaping bronze salmon with water spouting gently from their mouths. Nearby was the wild meadow, complete with a woven-willow wild boar family – delightful to view and a great touch. Over 60 varieties of plants had been chosen for their tactile qualities, perfume and striking colours. Non-scented plants were used to confuse the senses.

The summer house was cool and comfortable with tubs of mint and geranium. There was plenty of space in the open air dining area, where the willow table and chairs blended in

Lockwood and built by landscape students from Merrist Wood College. The whole garden simply reflected residents' ideas. It could be restful as well as having room for quiet activity. The timber arbour had a large table and seats, surrounded by aromatic plants – a good setting for quiet reading. Steps made from railway sleepers led to a shingled surface and a vegetable and herb garden. A mirrored gate in a wall was, I am told, popular with autistic residents.

Although simplicity was a keynote, there was an interesting use of pots and plants and two marvellous topiary dogs, which seemed to be leaping over the flower border. I particularly liked the waist-high "Ali Baba" earthenware pot overflowing with water that trickled from the wall top. Most welcome. You could pass your hands under it with no danger of falling in.

**Across the Generations  
Help the Aged**  
Well, if it takes one to know one, I certainly knew about this garden this year! Facing my 73rd birthday and resenting the fact that my lower back and hip are continually telling me so, I appreciated the amount of seating in this welcome refuge. The garden also embraced the theme of the family as a



Gioya takes a break in the National Asthma Campaign's garden: the flowers are in the Campaign's colours TRACY SCOLLIN

the plants lightly brushed one's shoulders or ankles, giving a friendly, warm feeling and warning of edges and corners. The central area had a bubbling spring pool, water plants, a small lawn and flat, well-placed stones.

An unusual feature was the stone folly. Very cool inside the turret-like confines, welcome seating (again!), two small windows and a glass roof for a view of the sky. Certainly a garden to be enjoyed by young and old alike.

**The Low Allergen Garden  
National Asthma Campaign**  
This was a superb garden with a serene, artistic and bewitching quality throughout. Emphasis was on low maintenance, including using low-cost paving and bricks instead of lawn, because grasses produce pollen. Plants and flowers whose pollen is wind-borne were replaced with insect-pollinated varieties. Fountains or splashing water can cause mould spores to be airborne, so the lovely pool trickled gently down into the smaller one below. Colours were muted yet magnificent; with white flowers used to attract the eye to focal points. The garden alerted the public to how gardens can be adapted for people with asthma. It deserved its silver medal.

**PS** It is time the press tent at the Chelsea Flower Show was made accessible for disabled journalists. I have written to the Royal Horticultural Society.

*Action for Blind People, tel: 071-732 8771.*  
*The Home Farm Trust, tel: (0272) 273746.*  
*Help the Aged, tel: 071-253 0253.*  
*National Asthma Campaign, tel: 071-226 2260.*



Pupils from the Susan Isaacs Special School in Wandsworth, London, in the bronze medal winning Easy-to-Use Garden for Young People with Learning Difficulties

with the larchlap fence and log wall in front of a raised flower and herb bed. Everything was tactile. Two young boys with little, if any, vision came into the garden. Using his hands to touch, one called out: "Look at how much there is to see in here." I think that says it all.

**Garden of Choice  
The Home Farm Trust**  
A gem of a garden – aptly named. It evolved from discussions between Home Farm Trust residents, was designed by Anthony

unit and claimed to cater for all ages. A simple layout disguised the fact that it was all very skillful and probably expensive. A great attraction was the path that ran horseshoe-like round the central area, made from wonderful, smooth, honey-coloured York stone, so warm that it almost invited a potter around in bare feet. The path led to the three sets of seats, in and out of the sun. I sat on them all. Each was embraced by lovely, nostalgic flowers – dog roses, foxgloves and aquilegia were among the ones I recognised. Everywhere

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MOTABILITY



MICRABILITY

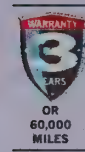
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# Supersonic, super fun!

## Lin Berwick jets off on Concorde

Dreams really do come true. When I won a Holiday Care Award in January for my trip to Paris, I said my next ambition was to fly on Concorde. Chandler's Travel, who arranged the Paris trip, decided to make this possible by giving me £240 of the £554 cost of a 1 hour 40 minutes "Supersonic Lunch Flight" from London and back again. (My husband Ralph put in the rest to celebrate my getting a degree in homeopathy.)

Concorde trip organisers Goodwood Travel arranged for the British Airways air ambulance to take me to the customs area, and then to get me on the plane.

Nothing was too much trouble for the air ambulance staff. They handled me and another passenger, who had MS, with great kindness and skill as they transferred us into a carrying chair.

The expectation as I was carried up Concorde's 30 steps was enormous. You could smell the luxury, beautiful leather seating, elegant padded cushions for your feet ...

As she went up at 260 mph in just 30 seconds you felt the massive surge of power (imagine 300 Ford Sierra cars thrusting into the air). It is the most exhilarating experience I have ever had.

You would think this would play havoc with the ears, but not so. Concorde travels at 23 miles a minute - faster than a bullet - at almost twice the height of Everest. It's the fastest my wheelchair will ever travel, yet it felt as gentle as a stroll.

The elegance of the flight was matched by the cuisine, beautifully laid out on starched linen tablecloths: fresh melon with strawberry, then a cold dish of chicken breast glazed with honey and sesame seeds, garnished with York ham, cracked wheat salad and tomato, with mustard flavoured mayonnaise. This

was followed by cheese, a selection of fine chocolates and several glasses of vintage champagne to toast my success. Most people were on board to celebrate and there was a real carnival atmosphere.

Concorde is very much a "feeling" experience, so my inability to see did not detract from the excitement in any way. The captain and crew compensated for the fact that I could not visit the flight deck by coming out to meet myself, Ralph and the other disabled passenger.

Wheelchair users may find the narrow gangways difficult and the loo totally impossible. Nevertheless, I wouldn't have missed my flight for the world. It was the thrill of a lifetime.

*Goodwood Travel Limited, tel: (0227) 763336. There are only two spaces for wheelchair passengers on each flight, subject to availability. Please state your disability when booking. Chandler's Travel, Station Road, Upminster RM14 2TT, tel: (0708) 224000.*



On the tarmac (above centre) and in the lap of luxury (below)



Stackpole's garden for the senses will be the largest in Europe

## Heaps to do here

### Orla Ryan reports

Since being set up in 1979, the Stackpole Centre in Pembroke, Wales, has established a name for providing the best in adventure facilities for people with disabilities. Wheelchair abseiling, canoeing, archery in beautiful countryside ... you name it, they probably do it. Now it's expanding, with a new arts and activities centre and renovation of the Victorian walled garden.

Within the new arts centre there will be music rooms, an art room and a library. All the facilities - for pottery, painting, sketching and music - are designed to give wheelchair users easy access.

Philip Rowe, project manager, says the theatre will have "every known access and aid technique for performers and audience. It will be adapted to make it easier for people with disabilities to perform and to manage lighting and scenery. All equipment will be on the right level for people in wheelchairs."

The Victorian garden is being turned into a "senses" garden, divided into four parts according to sound, touch, sight and scent. At two-and-a-half acres, it will be the largest of its kind in Europe.

"Outdoor musical instruments" bring the sound garden to life. From pipes donated by British Gas, Tony

Dale - a pioneer in this area - has designed a series of bright yellow constructions which play notes when you strike them with a baton. A raised crocodile covered in broken tiles, shells, plastic and stone takes centre stage in the touch garden. There's also a giant hand, complete with charm bracelet, and 12ft high snakes.

The £2 million expansion, to be finished by 31 July, also includes a hotel that can provide on-site care.

The centre gets over 4,000 visitors a year and accepts any age or disability. Stackpole is a charity, so holidays are offered at minimum cost.

The seven self-catering cottages and two group houses are usually booked solid from March till September. Facilities include bed and bath hoists, adjustable beds and an indoor hydrotherapy pool. Guide dogs and assistance dogs are welcome.

Mrs Pat Dugan is a regular visitor with Dyfed Red Cross. "I am confined to a wheelchair and I value my independence. The facilities are so good, I can be my own person when I am on holiday."

*The Stackpole Centre, Home Farm, Stackpole, Pembroke, Dyfed SA71 5DQ. Tel: (0646) 661425. Prices vary. A self-catering cottage for six people in high season, for example, costs £396 a week. Full board would be £10 per person per day on top. Bookings now being taken for October 1993 onwards.*

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# Fancy a day out?

**Alison Rowat presents the first part of DN's guide to summer days out**

Britain is bursting with fun things to do on a summer's day, and more and more places are realising that disabled visitors want to spend their time and money on a good day out too. So what's on offer?

Ramble to your heart's content in the beautiful countryside round the east

Museum at Greenwich, London, is offering free audio guides for visually impaired visitors or wheelchair users. Special summer attractions include a pirates exhibition. Tickets are £2.75 or £5.45 depending on how much you want to see. Helpers get in free. Tel: 081-858 4422.

Have a go at a wide range of sports and activities at Lee Valley Park in Enfield, Middlesex, at the Discovery '93 day for disabled people on 7-8 July. Booking form and programme, tel: (0992) 700766.



John McGovern checks out the new wheelchair-friendly signposts on the Southwark Riverside Walk in London. Mr McGovern, a member of the Southwark Disablement Association, which helped Southwark Council plan the route, said: "A lot of the Thames path is along narrow cobbled streets, and in some places you will have to take small detours as there may be steps rather than ramps. However, these incidents are few enough not to spoil the fun of the trail."

Yorkshire coast resort of Bridlington and the Wolds with the help of a new guide and a specially devised walk. Trail and guide free, but a charge for car parking. Tel: (0262) 606322.

The National Maritime

*Historic Buildings of England* is a new guide from the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR). £3. Tel: 071-637 5400.

The York Early Music Festival is on from 9-18 July. This year, the event has a

European theme, featuring artists from Russia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Holland and Spain, playing music written before 1800. York Access Group helped check out all 20 venues for a new information leaflet in print or braille. Tickets and programme information from the Festival Box Office, PO Box 226, York, YO3 6ZU. For the leaflet, tel: (0904) 658338.

Chester Zoo can now offer tours for deaf people thanks to John Denerley, a North of England Zoological Society Volunteer who is deaf. Contact the Education Division, Chester Zoo, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH. Please state how many people are coming and when. Zoo entry costs £6 for adults, £3.50 for children aged 3-15, £5 for adults in a group of 20 or more, or £3 for children in a group.

Bird-watchers can take a trip to a new wildlife centre and bird hide at Maple Lodge Nature Reserve near Rickmansworth, Herts. There are specially adapted viewing points where you might be able to spot one of the 125 species of birds and waterfowl that use the site. You need to be a member of the Maple Lodge Conservation Society to use the site regularly, but the Society is very happy to give people a free visit before they join. Tel: (0923) 230277.

If you want to travel a bit farther for longer, check out one of the 14 *Accessible Accommodation Regional Guides* from the Holiday Care Service first. The guides cover the whole of the UK. There's a



Doris Kemp (seated) and Sue Gearing at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. Discover the story of the ships that were built - including Nelson's HMS Victory - and the people who gave their lives to them. £5.20 for adults, £4.50 pensioners/students, £2.60 for children. Groups of ten or more disabled visitors, £4.40 each. Helpers free.

new reservations service too, offering discounted rates at many hotels and self-catering establishments. All have been inspected by the Holiday Care Service, the national charity for disabled holidaymakers.

Guides are 50p each. Holiday Care Service, 2 Old Bank Chambers, Station Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 9HW. Tel: (0293) 774535. Minicom (0293) 776943 (use TDD to announce call).

## NEXT MONTH ...

\* Messing about in boats  
\* The joys of caravanning  
\* Part two of the DN guide to days out. Get ready, Scotland!

Are you going on holiday this year? If your jaunt would make a good article for DN's holiday issue in January, please contact the editor, Mary Wilkinson, address page 2.

## New Insurance Scheme to Help you "Keep Mobile"

Motorists with disabilities have special requirements when they have an accident and their car has to be repaired. To be deprived of mobility and independence is devastating and is only catered for adequately by Fish Insurance under their "Keep Mobile" scheme.

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The service and care that you will receive from Fish Insurance is exceptional and not restricted to cars. They offer many other types of insurance, specially designed for people with disabilities and it is worthwhile sending for their free insurance leaflet.

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## 50 Years in the System

by Jimmy Laing  
(MIND Publications, Kemp House, 1st Floor, 152 City Road, London EC1V 2NP. £5.99.)

This year's MIND Book of the Year is Jimmy Laing's autobiography, *50 Years in the System*. In it he tells how, as an "unmanageable" child of nine, he was put into a mental institution by his parents "for a little while". Betrayed by many, such places became his home for the next half century until, in 1987, he was conditionally released.

*50 Years* is a dispassionately told tale of unfairness and injustice on a scale beyond recompense. Abandoned and forgotten, Mr Laing learned the inmate role the hard way: through physical, mental and emotional abuse of all kinds, including beatings, sexual assault, enforced medication and electro-convulsive therapy.

Those disabled people who, like me, have endured an institutional existence, will recognise the man coming through these pages. Behind layers of self-protection lies an astute survivor, fighting a system designed to destroy the soul. It is a tale of intelligence reduced to low cunning of such refinement that he was able to control and mock the behaviour of his oppressors



Melvyn Bragg (left) and Jimmy Laing at the awards lunch

IRIS FERNANDES

even as they were laying his life to waste.

Much of this would provoke outrage if witnessed elsewhere in the world. Yet it slips by unnoticed on our own doorstep, behind the all-concealing curtain of "care". Throughout - as usual - those responsible for incarcerating people without proper assessment or diagnosis, trial or judgement, remained free to walk away.

The MIND award goes to the book making "the greatest contribution to mental health".

Be that as it may, physically disabled ex-inmates will know that, unlike Jimmy Laing, they still face many more kinds of overt discrimination in society even after they have won their freedom. And the extent to which this book pushes forward our understanding of the kind of society that permits these abuses is debateable. There is little political awareness here. Perhaps this is the ultimate success of the "institutionalisation process".

Ken Davis

## Book news

With the community care and NHS reforms in place, now is the time to renew those essential reference books.

*Today's Health Service - A User's Guide*, by Robert Eagle, promises to be all you need to know. £2. Channel 4 Television, PO Box 4000, London W3 6XJ. Make cheques payable to Channel 4 Television.

From the people who bring you the radio programme comes the excellent *1993/94 In Touch handbook*. Information includes how to get help, the benefits system, work and training, computers and travel. In print, braille or audio cassette. £16.50. From *In Touch 1993/94 Handbook*, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ. Make cheques payable to Broadcasting Support Services.

*The Social Services Year Book 1993* has comprehensive information on social services, Government and voluntary organisations. £68. Longman Group UK Ltd, Westgate House, The High, Harlow, Essex CM20 1YR.

The Family Welfare Association's *Guide to the Social Services 1993* includes information on community care, benefits, education, housing and legislation. £12.95. Family Welfare Association (FWA), 501-505 Kingsland Road, Dalston, London E8 4AU.

Also from the FWA is the *Charities Digest 1993*. Includes lists of local associations for disabled people, volunteer bureaux, hospices and Citizens' Advice Bureaux. £14.95 from FWA, address above. Make cheques payable to FWA.



The National Library for the Blind and Oxford University Press (OUP) have joined forces to produce the *Oxford Children's Encyclopedia in Braille*, published on 7 July. The 59 volume set costs £125 to individuals, £400 to institutions. OUP, Educational Division, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP.

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## FILM

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## Army of Darkness and Madame Bovary

Question: when is a screen impairment not really seen as impairment? Answer: when it disowns disability stereotypes and appears macho and sexy.

You know, when Tony Curtis has his hand lopped off in *The Vikings*. This brutal amputation is portrayed as an act of heroism, with the masculinity and sexiness of Curtis positively enhanced. Notions of physical impairment and disability simply don't enter the frame, even if the film's lead is disabled.

Just so in the meandering, self-referential comic horror *Army of Darkness* (15), the third instalment of Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead* series.

The disabled hero Ash (he cut off his right hand in an earlier instalment because it became infected with evil - disability equals evil, again) is never even remotely viewed as disabled; his hunkiness stays intact as he is transported back to the Middle Ages to save the besieged court of King Arthur from the Deadites.

The cinema prefers impairment to represent vulnerability and emasculation. But the disabled hero, Ash, is designed to be neither of these (witness the pulsating publicity poster), so his impairment is conveniently overlooked, as is the whole issue of disability.

Claude Chabrol's film of the classic novel, *Madame Bovary* (PG), is a disappointing drudge. Disappointing, because it's an unimaginative, literal translation from text to screen without any interpretation by the director. The abiding memory is, why bother transferring it?

There is one high-point though. It comes with a comment on disability previously unseen in the cinema - by me, anyway.

Hippolyte has a mobility impairment. Dr Bovary decides that he should operate on "poor" Hippolyte. Why? In the interest of science; for fame as a philanthropic gesture towards "the gratefully disabled" (well, I said it lacked imagination).

This action struck a chord. It made me realise (once again) that the scientific world often views the disabled community as guinea pigs, not people.

The disabled person as scientific study - is this a new screen stereotype?



Starting in style: Avon Disability Arts Agency launched in June with an evening of live performances and exhibitions at the first Disability Arts Cafe, in Bristol's Southville Centre. Performers included Ian Stanton, Francis Rwana, Georgina Edema and Green Fuse poets.

## Johnny Crescendo and the POP Squad

In the grand tradition of the one-note guitar solo, the one-joke scenario and the one-way street, JC and his POP ("Piss on Pity") Squad are a one-theme band.

*Pride* is an angry, defiant, faintly discursive record about, funnily enough, pride. "I don't wanna be a wannabe/I wanna be who I am" is a Crescendo theme and he's sticking to it, even when he's in love, which appears to be quite often. But then he is a musician.

Occasionally, the ubiquity of this theme is an irritation, particularly when he descends into righteous waffle. "Dance to a different drum" is a bundle of boogie that earned few friends in the days of its apotheosis, when stack heels were high and flares were properly flared.

### Video top five

CS: closed subtitles, S: subtitles, NS: no subtitles

1. SISTER ACT (Touchstone) Whoopi Goldberg is singing nun on the run. (CS)

2. SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (Columbia Tristar) Flatmates fall out in psycho thriller. (CS)

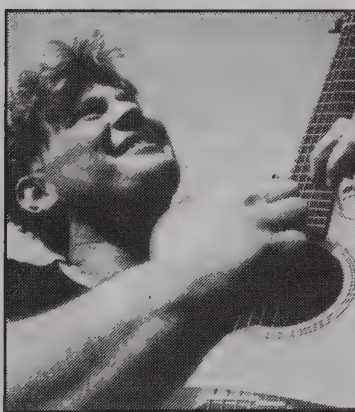
3. THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (Warners) Romantic adaptation of Fenimore Cooper novel. (CS)

4. PATRIOT GAMES (CIC) Family under threat thriller with Harrison Ford. (CS)

5. SNIPER (EV) Buddy movie on the assassination trail in Panama. (NS)

Andy Kimpton-Nye  
Chart courtesy of MRIB

## MUSIC



DAVID HEVEY

Yet when Crescendo bothers to be specific - in other words, when he explores his anger instead of merely expressing it - then *Pride's* thematic narrowness seems less of a limitation. "Boom boom" is a

convincing love entreaty, hinging on the neat conceit of washing-up guilt; "Ballad of Josie Evans" is a splendid Dylanesque narrative, featuring a scurvy cast of social workers, politicians and the leader of the local council. Good stuff. And it brings out the best in the POP Squad, who sound far happier jingle-jangling than rocking out.

Crescendo's voice is more convincing, too, when he opts for Dylan's nasal sneer over open-throated bellowing ("Lies") and the tremulous ballad style of "Loving you's a mission", which is brittle and melodramatic.

Still, the thing about one-way streets is that once committed, there's no turning back.

Nick Coleman  
*Time Out Magazine*

## TV

Chris Davies



The third series of Channel 4's documentary series, *People First*, began with two programmes illustrating the "rights not charity" argument. "This Charity Business" (1 June) looked at the voluntary sector, principally MENCAP and the Spastics Society. "Tragic but Brave" (8 June) featured tv fund-raising, mainly the *Children in Need* appeal.

Anyone watching these programmes and unaware of the shades of opinion existing on these topics could easily be forgiven for concluding that all disabled people are anti-charity, all non-disabled people are pro-charity, charities have absolutely no virtue, tv fund-raising is entirely about disability and disabled people have never benefitted from charities.

Two disabled people spoke in defence of the voluntary sector, but because of the editorial imbalance, their views were deemed reactionary and out-of-date.

Of course the state should not rely on the work of charities and provision should be a statutory right. But the cases for and against the present role of charities are a lot more subtle and complex than the picture presented in these programmes.

The *First Tuesday* documentary, "Thalidomide: the drug that came back" (ITV 1 June), raised interesting questions.

I have often noticed that people whose impairments are due to Thalidomide are very rare in the disability movement. Could it be because their energy is devoted to extracting compensation and they think they wouldn't be part of the disability community but for an artificially induced origin? I do hope that people with Thalidomide stop seeing themselves as victims and start joining the struggle against our disabling society.

The *Red Nose Awards* (BBC1 31 May) was in the tradition of the *Star Awards* and the *Number One Awards*. The big difference? No mention of SOS and no award for those who "overcome disability". Progress indeed!

After 17 editions, *From The Edge* (BBC2 27 May) retired until September. Stylistically, it remains an alienating mess. Of course I'm biased because of my participation in its predecessor, but even after 11 months it is still an unworthy successor to *One In Four*. Fortunately, there's always *Link* (Sundays, ITV).

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DN 7/93

# The Balmoral BATH LIFTER

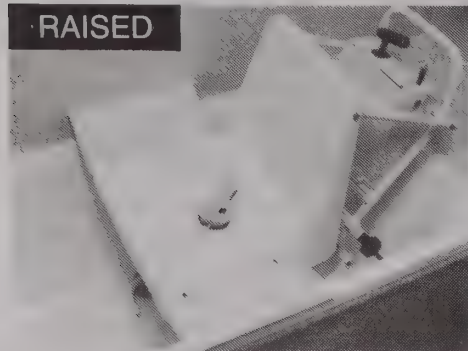
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**MOBILITY**

# British wheelchairs get more competitive

by Shirley Byrd

It was good to see a growing number of well designed British wheelchairs at the G-Mex centre in May, healthy competition for the very expensive continental and American imported models.

Disappointing, though, that so many manufacturers gave Northern Naidex a miss. I looked in vain for Carters, Everest & Jennings, Rempoy, Sunrise Medical and others.

## Manual wheelchairs

My main interest was lightweight, general purpose "active user" chairs, suitable for everyday life and leisure.

On the Gerald Simonds stand I saw Sunrise Medical's Quickie RX, a version of the famous Quickie, now being manufactured in the UK. Tested by Blackpool's Medical Devices Directorate, it is available on the NHS. £695, with optional quick-release wheels £30 extra. Tel: (0296) 436557.

I really liked the Meteor from R&J Mobility (see Scottish Naidex, DN, June) which



Pat Stothard from Colwyn Bay tries out the Maxi chair

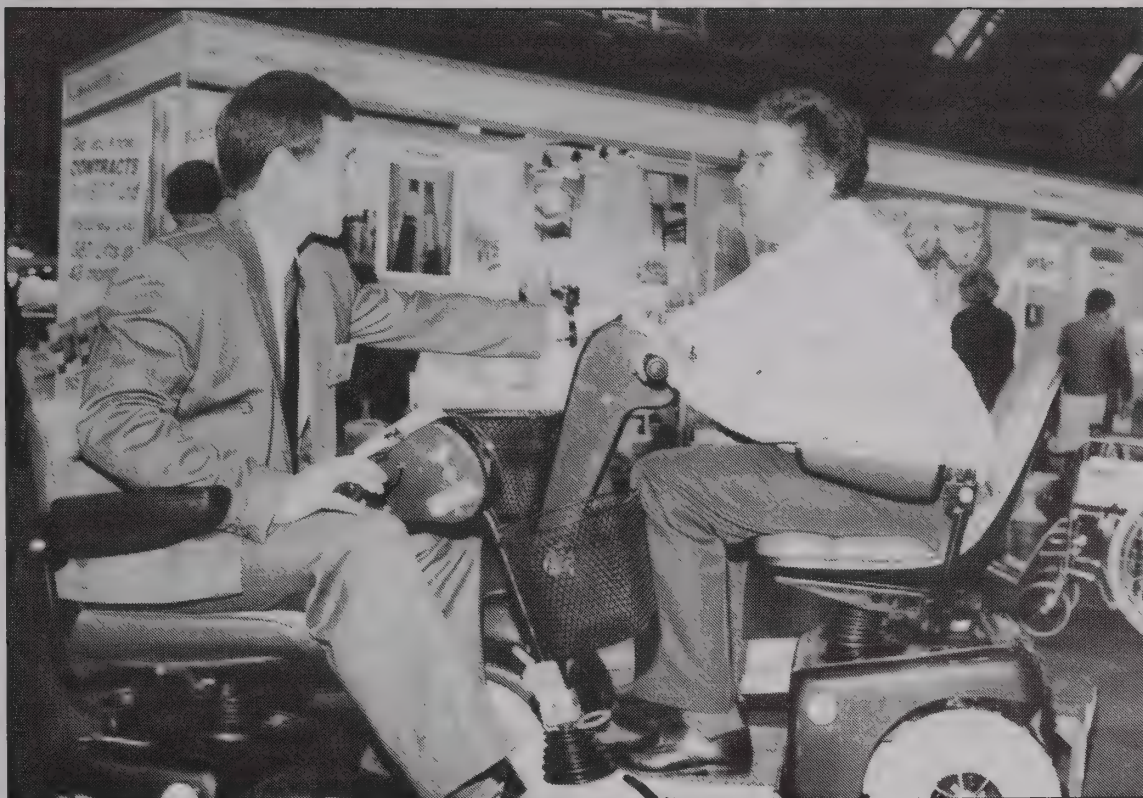
Ivan Jackson is still trying to wear out. A functional chair for every day and leisure that does everything you want. The price, which includes quick release wheels as standard, is very good for the wheelchair services. £450. Tel: (0934) 628151.

Day's Medical has the Victor, another good-looking lightweight chair. £525. Tel: (0656) 657495.

Chevron custom-built sports chairs (with prices to

# NORTHERN naidex '93

## DN's experts report from Manchester



Meeting head on: Frank Shepherd from Blackpool talks it out with salesman Mark Wilcox of Day's Medical. The scooters will soon be made in Glamorgan.

MIKE FRISBEE

match) are geared to the active user. Designed and built by wheelchair users. Prices on application. Tel: 051-707 1146.

The only new, standard self-propelled or attendant con-

## Powered wheelchairs

Disability Care Services had a very functional chair imported from Sweden. The Euroflex Workchair would be useful at home or in the office. It did everything you could ask of it and looked good. Prices from £371 for a chair with a manually-operated tilt and height mechanism, up to £3,779 for a complete system, electrically operated.

I also liked the motorised Pashley Polo and Pickle trikes, but it is unlikely they will be supplied through the wheelchair services. Prices on application. Tel: (0235) 523353.

RJ Mobility were showing the great Barrett range of electrical powered chairs. The Jewel is for indoors and the Gem is an indoor-outdoor chair. Both are compact and fold up for loading into a car. £1,540-£1,581 plus VAT.



Getting to grips with the Simpson Power Drive, which gives that extra help when you are pushing a friend up the hill

Tel: (0934) 628151.

The Sampson Power Drive would be a great help if you were pushing a friend or relative up hills. Imported from Israel, it is a motorised wheel that fits on to the back of the wheelchair and has controls on the push handles. Batteries fit onto a strap under the seat.

It could take the place of the only outdoor powered chair on

offer from the NHS, which is cumbersome. £880. Gerald Simonds, tel: (0296) 436557.

## Scooters

A good range of scooters imported from Taiwan by Day's Medical will be manufactured soon in Glamorgan. £1,195-£2,095. Batteries and charger extra. Tel: (0656) 657495.

## Lifts

Grorud Lifts had a van fitted with stair lifts at affordable prices, some of which will go round bends and fit into the well at the top of the stairs. They fold unobtrusively against the wall. From £1,800. Tel: (0207) 503097.

## Walking aids

There was a good range on display. Gerald Simonds had the Etac Rollator Avant which I liked because it was adjustable, had a seat, a shopping basket, a crutch holder and very good brakes. £195. Tel: (0296) 436557.

Day's Medical has a comprehensive range starting at £3.50 for a walking stick and going up to £185 for a high walking frame. The Tri-wheel walker and four wheel rollator were the most useful, £95 to £175. Tel: (0656) 657495.

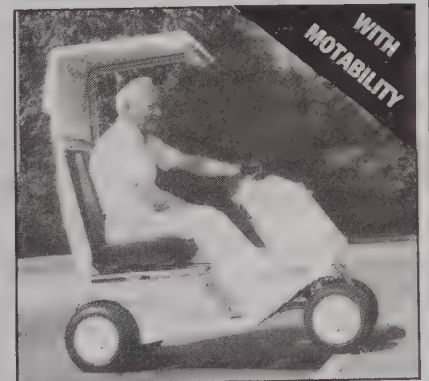
Finally, I popped into the Maximising Mobility talk by the Disabled Living Foundation, which was helpful, especially from the users' point of view.

They have a new loose-leaf information file on wheelchairs (see review in DN, August). Tel: 071-289 6111.

Shirley Byrd is senior physiotherapist at Halton Wheelchair Service, Mill Brow, Widnes, Cheshire.

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DN 7/93



Disability consultant Anne Royston of Access Really Makes Sense and Co, from Bradford, enjoyed her trip on the Grorud lift

## IN THE HOME

### Bathrooms get their big day

by Angela Carter

Bathroom and shower equipment seemed to dominate Northern Naidex.

The Neatdek level access shower grill by Go Independent comes in various sizes and doubles for wheelchair and family use. Fitted to wooden floors, it costs £380, to concrete floors, £180. Special sizes can be made. There is a lifting hook so the grille can be removed for cleaning. Tel: 051-920 4627.

An adjustable shower screen in Nicholls & Clarke's Phlexicare range claims to fit any length shower tray. Pull the Bourne up gently off the shower tray and it glides out to the required length. Easily folded away on multi-hinges. £298. For a home demonstration, tel: 071-247 5432.

Also in the Phlexicare range, a Gainsborough touch control electric shower with the usual safety features, plus an illuminated temperature control display and easy-grip lever. £159.

Triton has a 37in riser rail for their electric shower units, which solves the problem for wheelchair users and tall members of the family. It comes with a 5ft hose for £25, but not the shower spray head. Tel: (0203) 344441.

Chilterns Concept 2,000 bath can be fitted as a standard bath with the auto bath lift seat



Roy Dudley-Southern of Stockport inspects the utility trolley

and power pack added later. In four colours, it could be useful for housing associations building new properties. £1,800 from Westholme, tel: (0422) 377623. (NB: A good range of movement is needed at the shoulders to unlock the seat if it is used without a carer.)

Another specialist bath with integral seat is Go Independent's Options Bath. It has an air controlled hand switch and hinged arm rests. £2,200. Tel: above.

A simpler alternative to replacing the whole bath if someone can transfer independently is the Bathmaster bath lift, brand new from Homecraft. Lifting up to 22 stone, it has a padded seat, removeable backrest, rechargeable hand control and recharger unit. At £399, it must be the least expensive bath lift around. Tel: (0623) 754047.

Coopers showed their Inflatable Hair Wash Tray, about £26, which can be inflated by mouth or air pump, very useful for bed-bound people or those without head or neck control. The water drains through a tube into a bucket, so no more spills on the bed. Tel: (0428) 682251.

The most innovative piece of equipment on show must have been Chilterns Side Wiper shower chair from Westholme. Users can attend to their own personal toileting by side wiping. Similar to the W11B, it is self-propelling and has a horseshoe seat aperture turned to left or right. With removeable arms, £395. Tel: (0422) 377623.

#### Kitchens

Nicholls and Clarke's Phlexicare range of kitchen and bedroom units lived up to their name, with variable height adjustment and in various colours, suitable for people with different disabilities. Particularly good were pull-down, spring-loaded storage baskets, which fit into a wall unit and

drop down to worktop level.

I found two useful gadgets for food preparation at Damar International. The Stirex Combi Cutter doubles as a kitchen or garden cutter and incorporates a fish cutter, chicken cutter, tube and bottle

electrics or hydraulics. It combines lumbar support with comfort, but does not have variable heights yet. £1,500 from Comfort and Care, or possibly for rent at £40 a month. Tel: (0244) 541800.

A new invention from Nicholls & Clarke, the Utility Multi-Purpose Trolley, gives portable storage and has a detachable top that doubles as a bed tray. Heavy to lift, but the makers are working on a lighter model. £258. Tel: 071-247 5432.

Also from Nicholls & Clarke, the Osprey collection of ready-assembled bedroom furniture with large, long handles can be reached from standing or sitting positions. They have hinged or bi-fold doors in beechwood and are individually priced. Ring for a catalogue.

#### Chairs

Medinorth showed the Bliss support chair, a fully adjustable electric recliner with optimum lumbar, neck and head support, tilt and angle variations, arms which lower for easy side transfer and waterproof liners and washable covers. £585. Extras include tray, pommel and lap strap. Tel: (0532) 391464.



Winnie Burns from Liverpool hears about the Indispense

#### Eating and drinking

The Indispense by Sumed is a drinks dispenser that gives greater independence to people who cannot drink unaided. It holds hot or cold drinks, is portable, hygienic and rechargeable, and works by pulling on the mouth piece. £245 (inc p&p). For children, there is a fire-engine with bell. Tel: (0295) 270499.

#### Clothes

JMC Rehab footwear, showed additions to the 1993 catalogue: sandals, machine-washable, stretch-towelling slippers with sole and velcro-fastening shoes. £6.50 to £41. Tel: (0236) 764874.

Rolli-Moden had formal and leisure wear for wheelchair users: trousers higher in the back and shorter in the front; soft, wide-opening shoes and backs of coats and capes which finish at the cushion. There's even thermal underwear! Tel: (0227) 765101.

Angela Carter is a local authority occupational therapist in the north west.

#### Good ideas

For £1.50, a right money gauge to help visually impaired people tell notes and coins apart. It doubles as a key fob. From Ideas, tel: (0805) 358652.

For £15, a Braille Cluedo game with raised borders on all squares and tactile dice. A must for all those who fancy themselves as Inspector Morse. RNIB, tel: 071-388 1266.

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## CHILDREN

## Chairs and tables that grow too

by Wendy Daykin

It was disappointing that so many companies - Jenx, Taylor Therapy, James Leckey, Kirton and Special Orthotics Services - gave Manchester a miss. Is Naidex spreading itself too thin? And are there too many students and not enough real customers to

make it worth their while?

Of the companies there, it was good to see how equipment that "grows with the child" is now a priority: important when many education and social services departments are cutting back on their budgets.

For several years, Symmetrikit has produced a high standard chair that grows with the child and suits any disability. Therapists like the chair because of its excellent postural control, parents because it fits in well with normal sitting-room furniture, and children because it is so comfortable.

The drawback was that a child or adult who sits in one chair all day risks developing

an unconventional body shape. Yet there is rarely enough room at home to accommodate all the pieces of equipment necessary to change body position.

Now Symmetrikit has introduced the **Tilt Chair**, which has seven seating positions for the price and space of one. The chair can be adjusted easily for prone or side-lying. The children's chair is £750. Tel: (0827) 69992.

**Marshall Sports Chairs** has filled a much needed gap in the lightweight children's chair market. Each chair is "tailor-made" and I am told any mobility or mobility seating problem can be overcome. There is now a set of discreet wheelchair **knee-blocks**.

As both a therapist and mother, I was delighted by the range of colours, materials, accessories and innovative design features of the **Mark IV**. At last a child can choose the colour or design they want.

Marshall also has a "push-pull" bar to help children with poor co-ordination use a wheelchair before graduating to full manual control. Prices start at £895. Tel: (0372) 372731.

Top marks to **QBITUS** for producing a very well-made, reasonably priced children's **waistcoat restraint**. It is so difficult when your child sits well in his buggy, wheelchair or car seat until you go over a bump, turn a corner or brake.

All the waistcoat restraints are made from dark blue, waterproof Dartex and come with a soft, flexible liner. They expand with whatever clothes your child is wearing and the front velcro fastenings mean they adjust easily. Three styles, including one with a fastening under the crutch. From £25.



Sitting comfortably? Maresa Mackeith from Nottingham gets the feel of the new Smirthwaite table and Heathfield chair while Geoff Smirthwaite is ready to help

MIKE FRISBEE

Tel: (0422) 381188.

**G & S Smirthwaite** has a new, variable-height table, which is easily adjusted. It can be made to any dimension or shape, with or without cut-outs. There are no struts or under-table supports to impede access by a child who is in a wheelchair or has lower limb appliances. Very good for the growing child, firm and stable with many applications.

The **Heathfield chair**, though not new, is ideal for the

child who is developing independent seating or needs minimal support. Again, it grows with the child, is tough and sturdy and looks "normal". Optional extras are trays, reversible footboards, adjustable armrests, pommels and harnesses. Table starts at £53. Basic Heathfield chair from £86. Tel: (0626) 835552.

Wendy Daykin is advisory occupational therapist for the Spastics Society in Wales.



Jemma Prigmore tries out Marshall's Mark IV sports chair

## MICROTECH

## Screens and controls go portable

by Mavis Warrington

The most intriguing prototype at Toby Churchill was a communication aid composed of two **SL5s** set back-to-back with separate keyboards and display. Useful for two-way communication between speech and hearing impaired people, especially when out shopping. (The **SL30s** may provide a speech option.) About £795.

The new **Lightwriter SL35** has three improved speech options, one being **DEctalk** connected externally. There will be an "add-on" scanning screen, useful for people with a progressive disability as it offers gradual transition from keyboard to scanning. No prices yet.

A giant keyboard, with an optional keyboard, will connect to any **Lightwriter** fitted with a serial import. About £360. Tel: (0223) 316117.



Brenda Penny, Mike Howson and Hugh Steeper's control

Hugh Steeper showed two modifications of their environmental control: a screen with six or four selections. Useful for people needing only a few numbers or functions. Pictures/symbols are available if preferred to text. Tel: 081-788 8165.

**Possum's Companion**, a portable environmental control, can be mounted on a chair, wheelchair or table top. Easy to programme and capable of controlling many functions. With UK or continental-type infrared controlled sockets, it can be taken on holiday. £875, infrared sockets £105 each. Tel:

(0753) 579234.

A partnership of Acorn, North West SEMERC and Cumana has produced a "ready-to-use" computer based on the Acorn A4000. Fitted with Cumana's EMU interface, it comes with a standard user port which can be expanded. Software (eg Phases, My World) is pre-installed, so all you have to do is plug in. £899 plus VAT. Tel SEMERC: 061-627 4469.

Mavis Warrington is a senior lecturer at the Spastics Society's Beaumont College.



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DESIGNER DISABLED APPLIANCES

# Share Your Problems

If your body's beautiful, then why change it?



Ann Darnbrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Oh dear, I feel quite faint. I've had a letter from Valerie (not her real name) whose intention is, as she expresses it in her letter, "to put me on the spot". She challenges me to express my own feelings.

As you will know, this column is for readers to share their views and under an assumed name, too, if they wish. No such camouflage for me. I do hope my colleague and friend (up until now!) on DN, Chris Davies, will forgive this cross-column intrusion.

Valerie writes to say, "In DN's May edition, Chris Davies wrote about the Channel Four programme, *Citizen 2,000*, which had shown how the parents of a disabled child, Rachel, had persisted in 'a relentless struggle', through operations on Rachel's feet and hips, to find 'normality' for their daughter. Chris commented: 'When will parents learn to accept their offspring as they are?'"

"I did not see the programme in question and therefore don't know whether the parents had indulged in a futile and hopeless course of action. If that was the case then the comments of Chris

are, perhaps, valid. But I suspect that he is actually saying that efforts to 'correct' disability are misconceived, even where there is a reasonable chance of success, because there is nothing 'wrong' with being disabled. Such a view would seem to be arrant nonsense.

"Let me put you on the spot, Ann. I know that in your stimulating column you normally avoid expressing your own views. But here I ask you a direct question. I have been told that as a child you contracted spinal tuberculosis and spent about four years in hospital strapped to a frame.

"That forbidding, rigorous treatment allowed the lower vertebrae of your spine to fuse, thus avoiding paralysis. This kept you out of a wheelchair, while the discovery of streptomycin in the nick of time saved your life. My question is, would you have preferred life in a wheelchair?"

## Don't look back

Well Valerie, it is true that I can walk, though with some difficulty. What is important to me is that I have learnt to accept myself as I am, therefore it is difficult to look back

over my life and to consider myself in another way.

However, I do use a wheelchair in certain situations, and very grateful I am for it too. At the same time, I constantly moan that there are too few seats about these days. Department stores and supermarkets are impossible and have to be avoided.

The point is, I suppose, that we are entitled to expect our parents to do their best for us. At an early age, we have no say in their decisions, and as adults we may look back and feel "their best" was not what we would have chosen.

## Restrained by society

I was interested to read about 31-year-old Randy in a Canadian magazine called *It's Okay!* He was born disabled as a result of the drug Thalidomide. I'm sure he would agree entirely with Chris.

He wrote: "As a person born with a disability, I never felt disabled, I did not wake up with a sudden realisation that I had no legs and that I was disabled."

"No! Rather, I became aware of being a person with a disability from other people limiting my opportunities or saying those words we have all heard, 'You can't do that because ...'"

"I see myself as having perfectly formed legs. I have what others call little feet sprouting out where kneecaps traditionally are.

"I had always thought of my body as beautiful until ... for society's benefit, people started trying to change my appearance to make me look like everyone else. Artificial legs were imposed on my body for

over 19 years. When your body is changed to make you look more like everyone else, you feel ugly!"

"Many of the Thalidomiders in Canada, and indeed around the world, were altered with artificial limbs. *En masse*, a large percentage rejected these altering devices.

"I should say here, though, that although I have personally had negative experiences with artificial limbs, I do not deny others the right to choose

## A UNIQUE SERVICE!



The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and now a qualified homeopath. Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582. DN's helpline is sponsored by The Wellcome Foundation Limited.

them. My experiences are that I was given no chance to reject them."

What do readers who have been disabled since childhood think? Did your parents interfere too much in your disability and actually make things worse, as well as reinforcing a negative image of you as a disabled person?

If you needed to be altered, does it mean that you cannot be any good as you are? Or are you glad they took the actions they did in actually reducing your disability?

## Respect yourself

The image we have of ourselves affects everything we do - it certainly affects our sex lives. If we cannot like and respect ourselves, it is unlikely that anyone else will.

We need partners who will appreciate us for ourselves. We don't want them to overlook our disabilities because they are part of us; but neither do we want to be the objects of attention simply because we have a disability.

I have to admit to being shocked when I read an advertisement in DN's Find-a-Friend column of last year. It said, "Male, 29, able-bodied, seeks a lady who walks with callipers for friendship and possible romance. My relationship with a lady with spina bifida has broken up."

Did any women readers of this column respond to this advertisement? I would be interested to hear whether women who have found themselves in this situation have found real friendship this way.

## Negative attitudes

The other side of the coin is presented by Imogen, a disabled woman I heard about recently. She has a very poor image of herself. Consequently when a man shows some interest in her, she repels him because she believes he is relating to her disability rather than herself.

Making relationships is all about seeking the truth in our feelings and in others - it isn't always easy to get this right. What do readers think? I look forward to hearing from you. And, oh yes, my faintness seems to be wearing off, but I still think I'll go and lie down!

You can write to Ann Darnbrough at the address above. For *It's Okay!*, see *Share Your Problems*, DN, June.

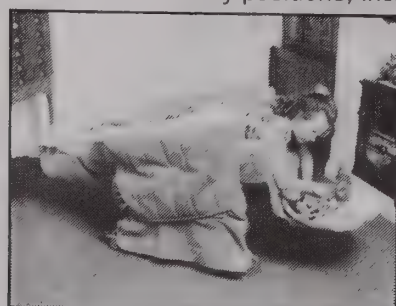
SYMMETRI  
**Kit**

## A NEW CONCEPT FOR POSTURAL MANAGEMENT AT HOME

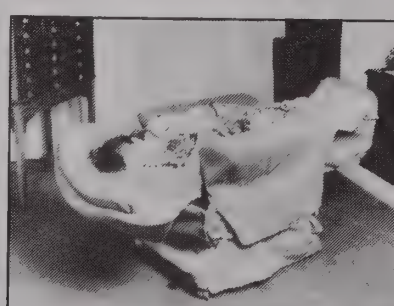
It is recognised by therapists that people who are unable to move well can be at risk of developing an unconventional body shape. The therapeutic management of a symmetrical posture is recommended in the effort to prevent these problems.

In a typical domestic environment there is limited space for equipment for postural management.

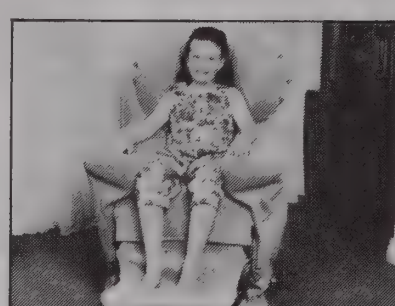
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DN 7/93

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# Wish you were heres from yesteryears

**Rose Tenent collects postcards. She tells you how to get started and what to look out for**

Picture postcard collecting was popular early this century. Many families had at least one postcard album which was passed round to every guest who came into the house.

Interest declined after the First World War, but recent years have seen a great revival.

Now there are not only postcard fairs held all over the country, but flourishing clubs where enthusiasts meet and exchange views, or correspond (and swap cards) by post.

The range of cards is enormous - royalty are very popular, as are flowers, animals, birds, railways, sport, military and country scenes.

You can collect old cards, like those produced in Edwardian times, modern ones, or some of both. You can build a collection of cards of a favourite town or village. Comparing old cards with new ones will show how the place has changed, as well as showing changes of fashions.

If you find a card with an interesting postmark, or with an amusing message from the

So, where will you find the cards? Your local newspaper may carry adverts for collectors fairs, jumble sales, antique markets, auctions, car boot sales and postcard fairs. Or, you could subscribe to *Picture Postcard Monthly*. The magazine has information on postcard clubs and fairs, addresses of people with cards for sale and where you can send for cards on approval.

How much you pay for a card will depend on its condition - rare or common, mint or used - the artist and its attractiveness. A great many cards can still be obtained for a pound or two, some for less. Good hunting!

*Picture Postcard Monthly*, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Annual subscription £16.



## "I Love You."



**T**hat's what Howard Brown said to his wife, Grace.

Just three little words, but she was overjoyed.

Because he hadn't been able to say those words for more than a year and a half. And she was afraid he might never say them again.

At the age of 56, Howard had suffered a stroke that left him nearly speechless. And he tried various communication aids for six months without success.

But Howard and Grace refused to give up.

So when they heard about the DynaVox® electronic communication aid - even though it was almost a year after Howard's stroke - they determined to give it a try.

And that's made quite a difference.

Because the DynaVox's user-friendly, state-of-the-art technology is designed to free people like Howard from the constraints of old-fashioned machines. Its intuitive, language-based architecture allows them to develop a new, more natural sense of self-expression. And, best of all, it's so fast and easy to learn that most people can begin using it in less than half an hour.

Of course, Howard doesn't use the DynaVox in anything *like* the way we intended it. But we're actually rather pleased about that. Because it means we've made it flexible enough to help him find his *own* solutions.

"He doesn't use it much for communication," says Grace. "He uses it to help him learn to say words *himself* - he repeats them after the computer. It's a great help. There's so much improvement since he's had the DynaVox."

And the secondary benefits are immeasurable. "The *encouragement* it has given him!" she says. "To *know* that he can say words he could not say before."

Howard agrees. "Is good," he says. "Talk! Happy! It'll be okay."

"I think the DynaVox is great," says Grace. Because it's helped Howard learn something even more important than those three little words. "It's helped him learn to say my name."

So if you know someone who might benefit from the DynaVox, we urge you to give us a call.

Because there's nothing we like better than making new friends.

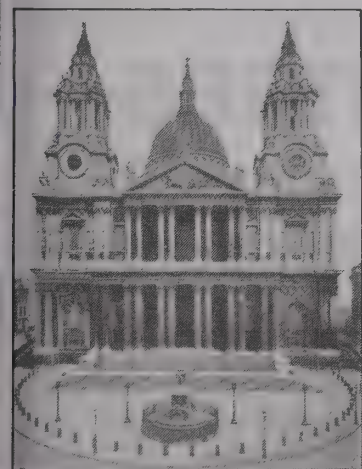
Unless it's helping those friends find their voices at last.



**DynaVox®**

A SENTIENT SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Rainbow Rehab ■ Unit 15 ■ 7 Airfield Road ■ Christchurch ■ Dorset BH23 3TQ ■ Tel: (0202) 481818



sender, then you have a bonus.

Most early postcards were published in sets of six, although today we usually have to track them down singly. The famous firm of Raphael Tuck & Sons produced countless sets of cards. The sets all had titles such as "Rural England" or "Animal Studies". Each card was numbered, which is a great help to collectors.

Any card bearing the artist's signature is worth a place in your album. Favourite artists of animal studies include Helena Maguire, Norah Drummond and Maud Scrivener, while landscape enthusiasts look for Charles E Flower, A R Quinton and "Jotter", whose real name was Walter Hayward Young. Catharina Klein (signature C Klein) was a celebrated flower artist and A L West produced delightful studies of birds. Comic postcards are highly sought after, especially those of Tom Browne and Donald McGill.

## INFO

**SeniorLine**, Help the Aged's free national information service for senior citizens gives information on welfare and disability benefits, housing, mobility. Open 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday, tel: (0800) 289404.

**Derby Access Guide for disabled people** is free from Michael Watts, Access Officer, Roman House, Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1XB, tel (0332) 255925.

**Introduction to Teaching**, a ten week course for disabled people in Hackney, London. Contact Janet Browne, Project

### Mobility Roadshow Information

*De Langstraat, Holland*, tel: (010-31-4108) 19037.

*Cunningham Corporation*, tel: 031-447 2313.

*Steering Developments*, tel: (0442) 212918.

*Design and Innovation*, tel: (0908) 226688.

*Alfred Bekker*, tel: (0377) 87276.

*Reselco Engineering*, tel: 081-847 4509.

*KC Mobility Service*, tel: (0924) 442386.

*Specialised Vehicle Options*, tel: (0672) 40001.

*Grillo*, tel: (010-39-2) 33911250

Worker, Hackney Community College, Woodbery Down, Woodbery Grove, London, N4 2SH, tel: 081 809 7737.

**Interested in voluntary work** on the Snowdon Award Scheme? Contact Victoria Scott, tel: 071-637 5400.

**Help Starts Here**, a guide for parents of children with special needs, is available in batches of 10 or 100 copies. £12.60 and £85 (plus £3 p&p). Contact Book Sales, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE.

**Disability, Pregnancy and Parenthood International** is a quarterly magazine for professionals and parents. £20 a year from Arrowhead Publications, 51 Thames Village, London W4 3UF.

**The Disability Rights Handbook** has the latest information on benefits and services for disabled people. £7.95 from Disability Alliance, ERA, 1st Floor East, Universal House, 88-94 Westworth Street, London E1 7SA or tel: 071 247 8776.

**Spelling Out Your Wishes: How to make and change your will**, a booklet for people with a visual impairment, is available in braille from National League of the Blind and Disabled, 2 Tenterden Road, London N17 8BE, tel: 081-808 6030.

**Chester Mobility Centre** supplies products and services for disabled people and carers. Chester Mobility Centre, 18 Knutsford Way, Sealand Industrial Estate, Chester, CH1 4NS, tel: 0244 377363.

**Guide to Access Regulations and Guidelines**, from Greater London Association of Disabled People, costs £1 from GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Tel: 071-274 0107.

**Designing for Accessibility**, a guide on meeting the needs of people with sensory impairments and mobility difficulties. £7 (inc p&p) from the Centre for Accessible Environments, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ.

## MOVES

Jenny Gould is the rural health and community care officer at the NCVO. Ray Hazan is now public relations officer at St Dunstan's for men and women blinded on war service. Gareth Jones is acting chair of the National Deaf Children's Society. Peter Mathison is the chief executive designate of the DSS' new War Pensions Agency. Juliet Reid is the RNIB's first mobile occupational psychologist. Stella Robinson, chair of Northern Arts, has been made a council member of the Arts Council.

## WHAT'S ON

**Outdoor Mobility Exhibition** of products for disabled people. 8 July 1993 at Nottingham University. Free. Details from Ailene Hickman, Disabilities Living Centre, tel: (0602) 420391.

**Chiltern Show**, an outdoor show for all the family, organised by the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation. 16-18 July in Buckinghamshire. Day tickets, £4.50 for children/senior citizens or £9. Postal bookings from Shows Box Office, 4 Grove Parade, Buxton SK17 0AJ, tel: (0298) 72272.

**Trafford Wheelchair Marathon**, 18 July. Further information from Edna Hughes, Room 64, Urmston Council Offices, Crofts Bank Road, Urmston M31 1UD, tel: 061-746 8323.

**Composers in Action**, a two week forum for composers with disabilities in London. Last two weeks in July. £30-£60. Contact Camilla Sheldon, 13 Sutherland Square, Walworth, London SE17 3EQ, tel: 071-708 5397.

**Reflecting Our Age: Images of Ageing and Use of Language**, a conference and exhibition, 21 July in Kensington, London. £11.70 retired people, £70.50 professionals. Contact Helen Tovey, Age Concern England, tel: 081-679 8000.

**Share Music Wales**, a one week course in Pembroke, open to anyone with a disability. 31 July-7 August. Try a variety of musical activities under the guidance of expert tutors. Ability to play an instrument not essential. £180. Further details from Dr Michael Swallow, Course Administrator, 15 Deramore Drive, Belfast, BT9 5JQ, tel: (0232) 669042.

**Epilepsy in Children and Young People**, a conference in Chalfont St Peter on 3 August. £70. Contact Alice Hanscomb, National Society for Epilepsy, tel: (0494) 873991/872049.

### Castle Priory

You & Me Yoga, 19-22 July. £254.

Challenging Behaviour - Programmes into Action, 26 July. £48. For details contact Castle Priory, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0HE, tel: (0491) 837551.



- I Painting slipware ceramics
- II Computing using head probe
- III Outing to see Blenheim bomber fly at Duxford Air Museum
- IV Specialised page turner
- V Hairdressing



# THE HEMSWELL CENTRES

**BLenheim HOUSE  
BLenheim FLATS**

**LANCASTER HOUSE  
THE CLOISTERS**

The Centres specialise in providing quality care for the young physically disabled. We are Registered by the North Lincolnshire Health Authority and are fully approved by the Lincolnshire Social Services. Our residents lead a full and active life as their disabilities allow and as the accompanying photographs show.

Our fees are within the new guidelines of the Community Care Act and many of our residents are fully funded.

All our rooms are en-suite, we have our own fully equipped minibuses for outings and fully trained staff including Occupational Therapist and Physio's.

Should you require further details or help on the new procedures regarding community funding of our fees please ring Miss G Clarke, Nursing Manager on (0427) 668175, or write to the Hemswell Centres, Hemswell Cliff, Gainsborough, Lincs DN21 5TJ.

# Cars? Keep 'em!

Last month's Mobility Roadshow sparked memories of my last brush with matters mechanical.

"Listen," said the AA man attending my breakdown, "you'll probably pay more for a new starter than I'd pay for the whole of this car. Get a second hand one from a scrap dealer."

I turned to Colin the Clutch, the millionaire mechanic who lives on and off everybody in our street. "Just get the old starter off," I said as nonchalantly as possible.

In 20 minutes he was at my door. "That'll be £20 just for you," he said, handing me a greasy cylindrical object.

Then I turned to a man I'll call Cheap John, king of North Western spare parts.

"A starter for a Renault-5? Help yourself." I looked aghast at the skyscraper of Renault cars. Cheap John looked at my hobbling gait with detached interest.

"I'll give you a tenner to take one off," I said.

"Twenty. They're the devils to take off."

Two days after I gave Colin £15 to put the "new" starter in, it wouldn't start.

Colin said "Try hammering". It took all the hammering I could give and still wouldn't start. I turned to push starting. The wife pushed. The neighbours pushed. Sometimes passers-by pushed. My wife called the AA.

They sent a different chap this time. "Get a new starter, sir. Better still, get a new car," he advised.

Colin the Clutch put the starter in for £35. Between the two of them, Colin and John had me for £120 (what I'd have paid if I'd gone straight to an agent first time).

"Serves you right," said my wife. "Now sell the damn car while it's still starting."

"GOOD STARTER" the advert emphasised. A woman who had just passed her test phoned. She "didn't know a thing about cars", but she would bring someone who did.

She turned up with Colin in tow. He gave the car a good going over and it started first time.

"Good starter!" he said.

I wanted to haggle when the woman offered two fifty but my wife said yes.

"Good buy," Colin said as he and the woman drove off.

"Good bye," I said.

"Good riddance," said my wife.

Rufy Khwaja

Win a £10 prize

# Create-a-caption

Prime Minister John Major presents Peter Ashworth, 13, and his mum Patricia, with the keys to a Motability Vauxhall Astra in Downing Street. What could John be saying to Pete while the hand-over takes



**WHAT DO YOU CALL ...**  
TWO SPIDERS WHO'VE JUST GOT MARRIED?  
A SHEEP ON A POGO STICK?  
A VIOLENT FISH?  
(ANSWERS ON THE RIGHT)

place? Is he offering him a Cabinet post, or asking to borrow the car to take Norma to Sainsbury's?

Please zoom your answers off to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, by 15 July.

ANSWERS  
THE NEWLY WEBS  
A WOOLLY JUMPER  
JACK THE KIPPER  
Got a good joke? Send it in to DN, address below

## ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ...

Answers page 35

1. Who was made Chancellor of the Exchequer?
2. Which anniversary of the Queen's coronation was celebrated?
3. Which football team won the FA cup?
4. Which rock band played its

- first concert for 25 years?
5. Which heart transplant centre did a Government review recommend for closure?
6. Why did the Queen Mother go into hospital?
7. Why was the South African political figure Winnie Mandela happy?
8. The Government of which Central American country called an election?
9. How old was actor Tony Curtis?
10. Who was the first British woman to climb Everest?

## June winner

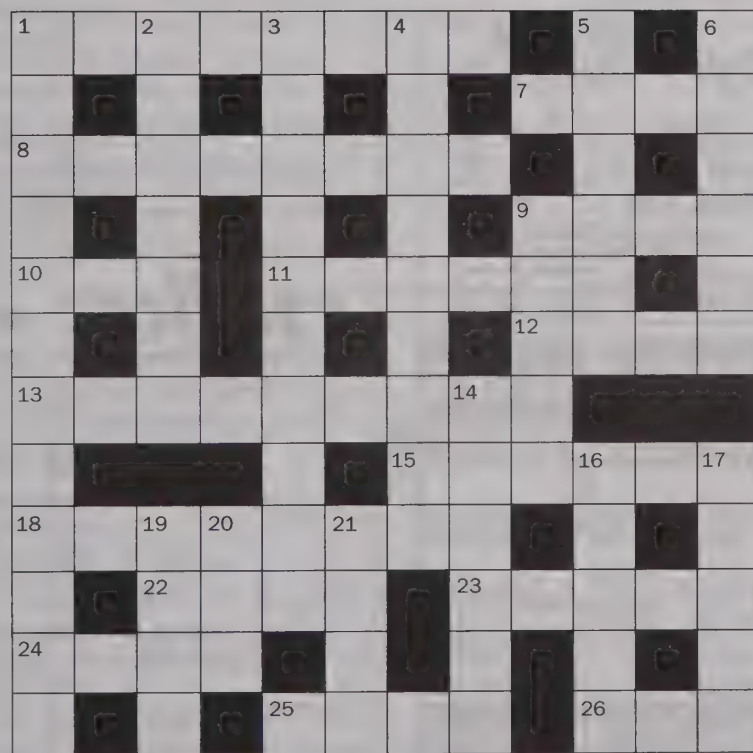
The £10 prize goes to J Blair of Town Yetholm in Scotland for: "There isn't any rush. Honestly, I can wait till the mini-bus is fixed!" Thanks to everyone who entered.



## DN's crossword

Answers page 35

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



### ACROSS

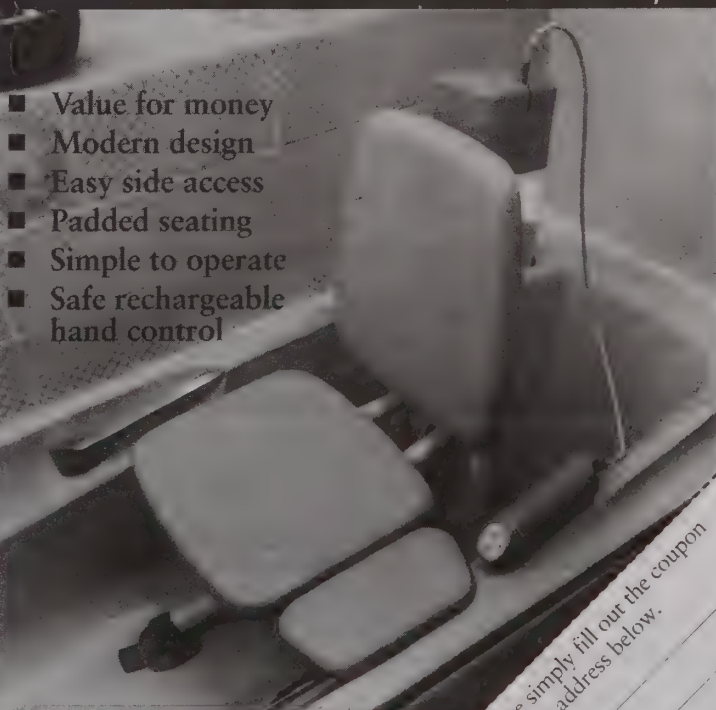
1. Vibrate tunefully (8)
7. Pain (4)
8. Rest gran (anagram)
9. Type of material (4)
10. Plant juice (3)
11. Gem shaped like beetle (6)
12. Rip (4)
13. Protection against loss (9)
15. Indian military chief or leader (6)
18. Type of fossil (8)
22. Middle of a month (4)
23. Loiter (5)
24. Women's magazine (4)
25. Richard \_\_, film star (4)
26. Pub (3)

### DOWN

1. Brought back to life (12)
2. Patterned with bands (7)
3. Black soul singer (4,6)
4. Healer (9)
5. Writer (6)
6. Goblet (6)
9. Woodland god or demon (5)
14. Way of colouring clothes (3,3)
16. Indian city (5)
17. Artificial fabric (5)
19. Measure of distance (4)
20. Poem (3)
21. Emerald or enchanted, for example? (4)

## The Bathmaster

An "Innovation in Bath Lifts"



- Value for money
- Modern design
- Easy side access
- Padded seating
- Simple to operate
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Low Moor Estate, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts NG17 7JZ. Tel: (0623) 754047 (4 lines) Telex 85201 Fax: (0623) 755585

For your FREE brochure simply fill out the coupon and send it to the address below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



## HOLIDAYS

### BRITTANY COTTAGE to let.

Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

**Winged Fellowship** provides respite care for severely physically disabled people and their carers at five UK holiday centres. One-to-one care. Write/phone for brochure: Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD (tel: 071-833 2594).

### YORKSHIRE DALES

Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome. Phone: (0423) 711747.

### "SOUTHDOWN"

A Holiday Home for the Disabled. 1 St Mary's Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. Tel: (0255) 672790. Offering full board and an awareness of the holiday needs of our less mobile guests and their carers. RING OR WRITE FOR OUR BROCHURE (Administered by the Southend Holiday Home for the Disabled Trust - a registered charity.)

### SUNNY TENERIFE

Fully Accessible Mar y Sol "Brilliant" says BBC TV Holiday Apartments Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

### Costa Blanca - Spain

Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

**NORTH DEVON**, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 360302.

### PENROSE BURDEN, CORNWALL

Fully adapted holiday cottages for wheelchair users and their families. Superb rural area with outstanding views, dogs welcome. 1992 Holiday Care award winners. Open all year. Colour brochure, please write or ring R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St. Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 4LZ. Tel: (0208) 850277 or 850617.

**Spain** - Fully adapted ground floor holiday apartments in the Mojacar area of south east Spain. 2 bedrooms, shared pool, close to beach and town. Sunny, relaxing, pleasant holiday area. Please write or phone: RAYMAR, Unit 1, Fairview Estate, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1HE, tel: 0491 578446.

**NAISH ESTATE**, New Milton, Hampshire. Fully equipped, completely wheelchair accessible, two-bedroom bungalow. Sleeps six. Site near sea with access to New Forest, Bournemouth. Excellent site facilities 100 yards from chalet. Details, Mr P Cash, tel: (0425) 72055.

**LOOE, CORNWALL**. Fully equipped, self-catering, two-bedroom bungalow. Sleeps six. Site near sea with easy access to beach, shop and camp facilities. Easily accessible for wheelchairs. Details, Mr P Cash, tel: (0425) 72055.

### HOTEL CIMON

**August Special Offer**  
**£138-£145 for group bookings**  
**7 days/6 nights B.B.E.M.**  
**Please enquire**

Price includes coach from destination and return. One full day and two half day excursions plus sing-a-long, bingo, karaoke night, and fancy dress party night. Full itinerary organised for the duration of your stay. Also optional trips to theatre, model village and boat trip etc.

**For further details, Mrs Knott, Torquay (0803) 294454.**

### GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED

Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT  
**Telephone: 0598 710241**  
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible. Equipment available.  
Tourist Board 4 keys and commended.  
**Please contact: Valerie Boddington**

### The Access Holiday Guide '93 Edition

Enlarged & detailing many additional "Wheelchair Friendly Holiday Venues". Excellent value at £3.25 inc p&p from **Access Holiday Guide, 7 Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8LY.**

**Mar Y Sol - Tenerife.** Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for video and cheapest prices on flights.  
**Algarve - Portugal.** Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or mini hotel with adapted rooms.  
**Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX. Tel: (0753) 685718.**

St. Leonards, Sussex. 7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site. For colour brochure. Tel: Shepway MS (0303) 242009.

**Kings Sailing for the disabled.** Sailing cruises for disabled and/or abled bodied people. With only four guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Tom or Anne King (0963) 34767. Or write to 5 Rowan Close Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9SG.

**Llandello, West Wales.** 3 comfortable well equipped cottages specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th century castle and over-run by deer. Each cottage sleeps 4. Central heating, CTV, laundry, fitness room. Large orchard and a very warm welcome. **Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (0558) 823059 for brochure.**

## CONFERENCES

### THE UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION TRAINING CONFERENCE

9th-12th September 1993

The conference at the University of Warwick, provides an opportunity for all with an interest in developing sport and recreation for people with learning disability to participate in a range of practical workshops, discuss current issues and obtain Governing Body of Sport Coaching Awards.

For further information call:  
**The UK Sports Association (Charity No. 281451). Tel: 081 885 1177.**

## GRANTS

# Sports Grants

## Clubs & Individuals

Sports Grants are available from Waltham Forest for individuals and sports clubs.

- Individuals need to be of a representative standard, recommended by their club or sport governing body and resident in the borough of Waltham Forest.
- Clubs must have at least 75% of their membership resident in Waltham Forest, provide opportunity for coaching and have an active equal opportunities policy.
- Due to anticipated demand, grants are not available for major capital works, and preference will be given to groups who actively fund raise.

People who applied for mainstream Grant Aid in October 1992 need not apply.

Further details and application forms are available from:

**Arts & Leisure Services**  
**P O Box 416, Sycamore House**  
**Forest Road, London E17 4SY**  
**Tel: 081 527 5544 Ext 4557**

Application forms must be returned by 30th July 1993



## EDITOR FOR MEDIA READER – DISABILITY IN FILM AND TV

Editor required to work on start-up phase (October–December 1993) of production of an anthology of selected and commissioned pieces on disability and the media, working to an Editorial Board. Publication and direct disability experience essential. First stage fee £1,600 based on 8 days work.

Project details and outline of reader content from:

**Joy Wong, Planning Unit, British Film Institute,**  
**21 Stephen Street, London W1P 1PL.**  
**Tel: 071 255 1444. Fax: 071 436 7950.**

State if tape, large print, or braille versions required.

Closing date for applications 23 August 1993.

Supported by the Arts Council and the British Film Institute

**THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN**

## COURSES

Applications invited for the  
**DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING**  
2 year part-time professional training  
commencing September 1993.  
Details from Customer Services  
Crawley (0293) 612686 ext 205.

**Crawley College**  
College Road  
Crawley RH10 1NR



## British Council of Organisations of Disabled People

### Researcher - £16,347pa (or equivalent for consultancy) 18 month contract

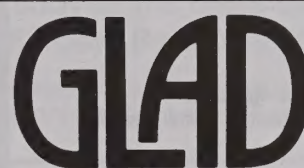
BCODP wishes to appoint a Researcher to set up and manage a new programme which will investigate how disabled people are able to access housing under the Community Care legislation. You will work closely with some 6 regional BCODP member organisations on this project. The Researcher will need to demonstrate the usual research, communication and interpersonal skills necessary to see through this important programme.

We are open to all approaches to consider either employee status, consultancy, job share etc as we wish to attract the right person for this important research. However, the position is only open to disabled people.

Closing date for applications is 16th July. Interviews will be held on 30th July in London and we would like the project to start before 1st October 1993.

Contact us for an information pack and further details. State if you need this in braille, large print or on cassette.

BCODP, De Bradelei House, Chapel St, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 1AR. Tel: 0773 828182. Minicom: 0773 828195.



London's leading disability  
organisation needs a  
**COMMUNITY CARE  
OFFICER**

to help local organisations of disabled people prepare for community care contracts.

Good communication skills, knowledge of disability issues, independent living and community care, a commitment to equal opportunities, and an ability to work to deadlines are essential to this post.

Salary: £16,191. Scale 6:26. Fixed term contract, 18 months.

Closing date: 16th July 1993.

For further details contact Dorothy Dodoo at Greater London Association of Disabled People, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. Telephone/Minicom: 071-274 0107. Fax: 071-274 7840.

Supported by Joseph Rowntree Foundation.  
GLAD is an Equal Opportunities Employer.  
Charity No. 293158.

## POLICY & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

£20,900 – £22,600

Leicester has one of the most comprehensive and professional leisure service departments in the country. A Senior Manager is now required to take responsibility for:

- Development of marketing and service planning processes.
- Development and monitoring of Equal Opportunity Strategies.
- Information Systems/Technology.
- Provision of Internal Business Planning Consultancy.
- Major involvement in Organisational Reviews, Quality Assurance and Service/Trading Agreements.

Applicants should have a minimum of three years' management experience covering a range of activities and have substantial experience of Policy Development and/or Service Planning within a leisure environment. Candidates will also be expected to demonstrate a high level of awareness and commitment to Equal Opportunities and Positive Action measures. An innovative approach together with a clear understanding of the key issues affecting leisure services over the next few years are also important.

Actual removal costs, generous expenses allowance and help in finding temporary accommodation available in appropriate cases.

**Closing date: 16th July 1993**

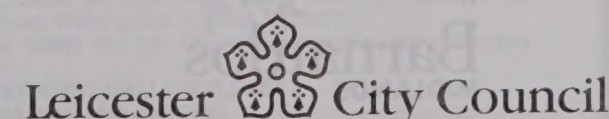
**Post No. J650**

Leicester City Council uses Positive Action measures to fight discrimination in recruitment, promotion and training and ensure equality of outcome in employment. Applications are therefore actively encouraged and particularly welcome from women, black people, people from minority ethnic groups and disabled people who are under-represented in this area of the Council's workforce.

**For an application form and more details: Tel: 0533 527099 (24 hours). Minicom Service – office hours only, or write to: One Stop Job Shop, Town Clerk's Department, B4 New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Personal callers welcome 9 – 4.30 weekdays.**

Job Sharers welcome – no partner required.

Disabled persons meeting the essential characteristics of the job are guaranteed an interview.



## THE BENEFITS AGENCY

We are looking for enthusiastic and flexible people to work as Administrative Officers at our busy offices in Edmonton, Tottenham and Wood Green. As an Administrative Officer you will work as a member of a team processing claims for benefit, or provide clerical support.

**Qualifications:** Good interpersonal skills. Able to deal tactfully and sensitively with members of the public. Ability to work well under pressure. 5 GCSE's or equivalent, including English language.

**Salary:** Starting from £5529 to £9287 and rising to £12,036, plus £1015 London weighting. There is also a non-contributory pension scheme.

**Benefits:** Flexible working. Opportunities to work part-time. 22 days annual leave.

For details/application form write to:

The Benefits Agency, Personnel Unit, St Georges Chambers, 23 South Mall, London N9 0BW, or telephone 081 345 6583.

Applications must be returned to the above address by 16th July 1993.

**The Benefits Agency is committed to Equal Opportunities for all.**



benefits  
**ba**  
agency

An Executive Agency of  
the Department of Social Security

## Staff Development & Training Officer - Equal Opportunities

£17,208 - £21,462 pa (Bar at £19,656)  
(Time Limited to 2 years)

Barnardo's Midlands Division is committed to promoting high standards of service through good quality employee training and development. There are twenty projects throughout East and West Midlands which offer a multi-racial service to children and families including family placement, community support and family centre work.

Based at the Divisional Office, Halesowen, you would contribute to the development of anti-oppressive practice by assisting the Division to develop and implement its Equal Opportunities Strategy, helping teams to put into practice equal opportunity objectives, and by contributing to development of Quality Assurance systems.

You need to have personal experience of oppression which you are able to use positively to inform working practice, have at least four years experience of working in the community/social/health care sector and have experience of providing or co-ordinating training.

Support is available to all employees through regular supervision and for Black employees through a Black Workers Support Group. Black people, members of other minority ethnic groups and people with disabilities are under represented in the Division and we particularly welcome applications from these groups.

Applications from candidates wishing to job share are welcome.

Job details are available on tape or in large print on request and applications will be accepted in this format.

Application forms together with further details of the post and a statement of Barnardo's basis and values and equal opportunity policy are available from: The Personnel Department, Barnardo's, Child Care Office, Brooklands, Great Cornbow, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3AB. Please quote Ref.29. Closing date for completed application forms: 9 July 1993. Interviews will be held on: 20 July 1993.



Charity Reg. No. 216250

## FRIENDSHIP AGENCIES

**HANDIDATE**  
Dating Agency

**For people with disabilities.**  
**Be assertive and join Handidate.**  
**The Wellington Centre**  
**52 Chevallier Street**  
**Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.**  
**Telephone: (0473) 226950**

**Anybody Any Age Able-bodied or Disabled.** Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship. **Mutual Essential Links,** 1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL. Tel. 0606 49093 (24hrs).

**DATES FOR THE DISABLED - A BETTER LIFE -**  
36 Park Grove, Edgware, Middx. HA8 7SJ  
Tel. 081-958 9657

## MUSIC FORUM

**COMPOSERS IN ACTION**  
Forum for aspiring composers/songwriters with disabilities.  
**July 19-30**  
Composing, arranging, lyric-writing workshops.  
Introduction to MIDI-technology.  
One to one with a professional arranger and musicians.  
All music performed and recorded.  
For info (enclose SAE):  
Camilla Sheldon, 13 Sutherland Sq,  
London SE17 3EQ, tel: 071-708 5397.

## THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

### Press Officer

£15,567 - 17,574  
(incl of Inner London Weighting)

The Spastics Society is seeking a third press officer to join its busy press office. Reporting to the Senior Press Officer, you will help generate maximum positive publicity for the work and aims of the Society. You will be joining at a crucial time, as the Society gears up for a relaunch and change of name. You will have at least two year's experience, preferably gained in a national voluntary organisation. Alongside excellent communication skills and a keen news sense, tact, discretion and flexibility are essential qualifications for this post. You will be comfortable working with staff and volunteers at all levels of the organisation. You will bring the same flair and enthusiasm to a photo call for local papers as you do to organising the press work for, say, a national lobby of parliament.

You must be able to demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunities issues. An understanding of the issues facing a voluntary sector disability organisation would be an advantage.

For further details and an application form, contact Bobette Newell, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel 071 636 5020 ext 266 quoting ref DN/PO/93. We regret that we are unable to respond to telephone enquiries at this stage.

Closing date for applications: Monday, 5th July, 1993.

Applications from candidates with disabilities are particularly welcome.

**WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY**

The Legal Protection Group is a major employer offering legal assistance to motorists involved in car accidents. We are a wholly owned subsidiary of one of Britain's biggest insurance and financial services groups.

We are opening new premises in the centre of Halifax and have vacancies in the following areas:

- \* word processing
- \* office administration
- \* claims negotiation

For the word processing positions we are looking for people with some experience, but for the administration and claims negotiating positions we can offer trainee positions to suitable applicants.

Salary and conditions of employment are competitive and there are good opportunities for career advancement.

The premises are on the ground floor and fully wheelchair accessible. The Legal Protection Group is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from disabled people.

Please send your C.V. and an indication of your work preference (administration, word processing, claims negotiation) to:

**Mrs J Dickson, Manager**  
**The Legal Protection Group,**  
**Bowling Mill**  
**Dean Clough Office Park**  
**Halifax**  
**West Yorkshire**  
**HX3 5AX.**

**THE LEGAL PROTECTION GROUP** Limited

## CAMDEN ENVIRONMENT

### Planning, Transport & Health Service

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS and PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS

£21,195 - £25,818 pa inc

**E**xcellent opportunities exist for qualified Environmental Health Officers in Camden's Residential, Pollution Control & Public Health and Food, Health & Safety Teams. We offer generous conditions of service, including flexitime, and a Career Development Scheme which recognises ability and experience within the above salary scales.

Camden is a progressive Authority, having recently formulated an Environment Strategy and identified clear objectives and targets for staff to work to over the coming years. The Borough covers a large area of Inner London ranging from the leafy suburbs of Hampstead in the north to the busy commercial area of Holborn in the south. The offices are close to Euston, St Pancras and Kings Cross stations and within easy reach of London's West End.

To receive an information pack and application form please contact the Environment Department, Personnel Section, Room 503E Town Hall Extension, Euston Road, London. NW1 2RU, telephone: 071 860 6909 (answerphone).

**Please quote reference 6/1/W2**  
**Closing date: Monday 12th July 1993**

Camden values the positive contribution made by the Borough's diverse community to its social, cultural and economic life. Camden also recognises the differing forms of discrimination and oppression that particular groups suffer. Camden aims to PROMOTE equality of opportunity and PREVENT discrimination in its provision of services and in its employment policies and practices.



Camden

CAMDEN ENVIRONMENT

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES**  
Please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, L2 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362. Fax: 071-237 8019.

Deadlines for August issue: booking by 16 July, camera ready artwork/copy by 20 July.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**ACROSS:** 1. Resonate  
7. Ache 8. Stranger  
9. Silk 10. Sap 11. Scarab  
12. Tear 13. Indemnity  
15. Sirdar 18. Ammonite  
22. Ides 23. Dally 24. Elle  
25. Gere 26. Inn  
**DOWN:** 1. Resuscitated  
2. Striped 3. Nina Simone  
4. Therapist 5. Scribe  
6. Beaker 9. Satyr  
14. Tie-dye 16. Delhi  
17. Rayon 19. Mile  
20. Ode 21. Isle

## NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Kenneth Clarke 2. 40 years 3. Arsenal 4. The Velvet Underground  
5. Harefield hospital 6. For an operation on her throat  
7. Her jail sentence for kidnapping was replaced by a fine 8. Belize 9. 68  
10. Rebecca Stephens

## S.C.V.S. (DISABILITY SECTION) ADMIN/INFORMATION WORKER

**SALARY:** £6,645 inc O.L.W. for 20 Hours.  
Applicant will be aware of disability issues. He/She will have a good telephone manner, typing, W.P. skills and some knowledge of information systems. Based in Sutton. Applications from disabled people are particularly welcome. Details and application forms from: Sutton Council for Voluntary Service, (Disability Section), 31 West Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1SJ. Tel: 081-643 3277. Closing date: 19th July 1993.

## EPC EQUIPMENT FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Specialising in:

### LIGHTWEIGHT, RIGID & FOLDING WHEELCHAIRS

- Require a Salesperson
- Training given
- Phone for an Application Form & Job Description

**Tel/Fax: 0252 547939**

156 Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6RY

**OR OUR NEW OFFICE IN COVENTRY.**  
**Tel/Fax: 0203 422327**

*A company run by the disabled - for the disabled*



## FREELANCE INTERVIEWERS REQUIRED

Policy Studies Institute (PSI) requires research interviewers to work on a study on direct payments for personal assistance. Interviewers will be required from all parts of the country.

You must have good interpersonal skills and the ability to ask questions of a sensitive nature. Applications from disabled people are strongly encouraged.

Interviewers will be employed on a self-employed freelance basis for a temporary fixed term only; expenses (including any related to mobility requirements) will be reimbursed. Travel within your local area will be required.

Please contact Pamela Nadash at Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, for more information about the post. The closing date for applications is 19 July 1993.

## CAREY GARDENS CO-OPERATIVE LTD 3 CARETAKERS

**Wages: £200 per week (inclusive of rota weekend shifts)**

Carey Gardens Co-operative Ltd, acting as managing agents and with the full support of Wandsworth Council, is a low rise maisonette estate in Battersea, London. It has 403 Units which includes a Sheltered Scheme with its independent Warden Support System.

We are looking for 3 committed workers to provide caretaking, cleaning and limited minor repair services for the estate under the responsibility of the Co-operative's Deputy Manager and the direction of the resident elected Management Committee.

If you have the ability to carry out the above and a commitment to real resident control, you will find this a genuine and rewarding opportunity.



For an application form, please phone 081 871 7829 (24 hour answerphone).

**CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 6 AUGUST 1993.**

**CAREY GARDENS CO-OPERATIVE LTD.**  
Pursuing Equal Opportunities



## HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES • HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES • HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES • HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES •

The Mid Tottenham Area Office provides a fully decentralised Housing Service to the public and private sector clients in the High Cross, West Green and Bruce Grove wards.

The office houses several teams covering Central Allocations, Technical/Repairs, Housing Benefits, Administration, Private Sector Advice and Estates Management. We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:-

## MANAGEMENT OFFICER

**Part Time 17.5 hours**

**Scale 6 - SO1**

**Salary £15,213 - £17,817 - pro rata**

Can you meet the challenge of the difficult yet rewarding job of Management Officer -

We are looking for a highly motivated and committed addition to our team, to manage a caseload of approximately 500 properties and undertake a wide range of duties which includes, Rent Arrears Recovery and Prevention. Dealing with cases of Racial Harassment, Domestic Violence and Neighbour Disputes.

A high priority is given to equal opportunities policies and quality service delivery. You will therefore need to demonstrate a keen awareness of the issues involved. It is essential that you have:-

- Good Communication Skills
- The ability to work well in a team
- The ability to work well under pressure
- The ability to use your own initiative

It is also essential that you hold a full driving licence and have the use of a car.

## HOME VISITOR

**Part Time (Hours 17.5)**

**Sc 6 Salary £15,213 - £16,170 - pro rata**

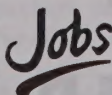
An enthusiastic individual committed to high quality, professional, efficient public service is required to work in a small team based at Mid Tottenham. The job entails providing advice to homeless clients awaiting permanent accommodation and updating records in order that an appropriate offer of permanent accommodation can be made.

It is essential that you hold a full driving licence and have the use of a car. An Essential Car User allowance is attached to this post.

You may apply solely for this post or combine it with the above part time Management Officer post. Applicants applying for both posts should apply for the Management Officer post but send a covering letter explaining they are applying for both posts, for those applying for both posts a single interview will be held.



*"Haringey is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer"*



# FAST TRACK

**16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5HL  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**Do you want a job?**

**A qualification in management?**

**The chance to experience work in some of Britain's biggest companies and banks?**

Applications are invited from graduate calibre individuals who want to enter management and are prepared to work hard to get there fast.

**FAST TRACK** is an exciting new programme developed through the partnership between a major charity, national employers and a network of forward looking Training & Enterprise Councils.

**FAST TRACK** is a 2 year programme offering a salary, a Diploma in Management Studies and experience of work in a range of organisations such as The Boots Company, Midland Bank or Barclays Bank. Starting date September 1993.

For more details and an application form write to the address above, or ring 071 387 9571 (Ext 219), or fax 0711 383 3205 before 28th July.

## TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**(2 Posts)**

**Sc 4 Salary £11,961 - £13,224**

These full time posts are based within the Development Team at the Mid Tottenham Area Office. The Team is responsible for providing a day to day repairs and maintenance service to approximately 2,300 properties.

The main duties of the post range from the receipt of and processing day to day repairs; processing official orders and miscellaneous payments; liaison with internal and external agencies; providing administrative support to technical staff as well as general administrative duties.

We are looking for a responsible and committed person with both written and oral communication skills as you will be dealing with the public on a daily basis. You should also possess basic numerical skills in relation to processing invoices etc. A basic knowledge of building maintenance would be useful but not essential.

## RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Sc 3/4 £11,037 - £13,224**

The person appointed will need the ability to work effectively within a team providing a key frontline service to the public and will be responsible for the initial reception of callers, the telephone switchboard and the provision of administrative support to the office.

The ability to deal sensitively with enquiries from clients and work under pressure is essential as is the ability to learn a wide range of procedure and policies in order to provide an efficient service. Good communication skills are essential and an interest in Local Government, Housing and Community would be useful.

In all of above posts, it is necessary to demonstrate a commitment to the Council's Equal Opportunity Policy and to have an understanding of the discrimination faced by members of the black communities, ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups.

Haringey Council is committed to having a workforce which reflects the communities we serve. Applications are therefore particularly welcome from members of the Asian and Turkish communities.

Mid Tottenham Area Office is centrally based and is served by a wide range of public transport. Car parking is generally available. The office is arranged on three floors served by a lift. Disabled applicants are welcome to contact the office for further information.

People with disabilities who meet the basic criteria for these posts will be guaranteed an interview ahead of other applicants.

For an application form and further details, please apply to:- Housing, Social Services Department, (Personnel Section), 48 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 4TY.

Please quote the job title and enclose a self-addressed envelope.

**NO PERSONAL CALLERS PLEASE**

Closing date: 16th July 1993.

# MOTABILITY DRIVERS CAN DRIVE AWAY A PANDA SELECTA AUTOMATICALLY.



Our no deposit offer makes it even easier to drive away an automatic Fiat Panda Selecta.

To start with, there's the electronic continuously variable transmission (ECVT). It automatically selects the right gear from an infinite number of ratios, giving smoother driving, whatever the road conditions. Then there's the fully independent front suspension, and at the rear, Fiat's unique Omega system absorbs potholes and provides better road handling.

That's not all. The Selecta has a Fully Integrated Robotised Engine (FIRE) which has 30% fewer moving parts and achieves up to 54.3 mpg\*

To you and me that means robot-like reliability and lower running costs.

Costs are further reduced by

contract hiring through Motability Finance, as all scheduled servicing and routine maintenance is included. Or of course you can buy outright or Hire Purchase your new Selecta.

Either way you automatically get the Fiat Aftercare package:

#### FIAT ANTI-PERFORATION WARRANTY



All Pandas come with an 8 year anti-perforation warranty and a 3 year paintwork warranty.

Plus a year's manufacturer's warranty and a year's AA Assurance membership.

To find out more about a car that's big on classic style and small on petrol consumption, call free on 0800 717000 or contact your local dealer.

You'll find a Panda Selecta is the automatic choice.

**DESIGNED FOR LIFE**

**FIAT**

\*FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES AS FOLLOWS: URBAN CYCLE 35.8 MPG, CONSTANT 56 MPH - 53.3 MPG, CONSTANT 75 MPH - 38.7 MPG.